Gloria names Azcuna to SC over Salonga objections

Story on Page A2

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

THE MANILA REGIONAL TRIA
ASSOCIATION LIB

GMA declares long weekend Oct. 31-Nov. 2

START packing for a long weekend this coming All Saints' Day.

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday declared as special non-working days Oct. 31, a Thursday, and Nov. 2, a Saturday, to allow Filipinos sufficient time to pay homage to their dead.

All Saints' Day, a special day, falls on a Friday.

GMA DECLARES/ A17

CITY ON THE EDGE

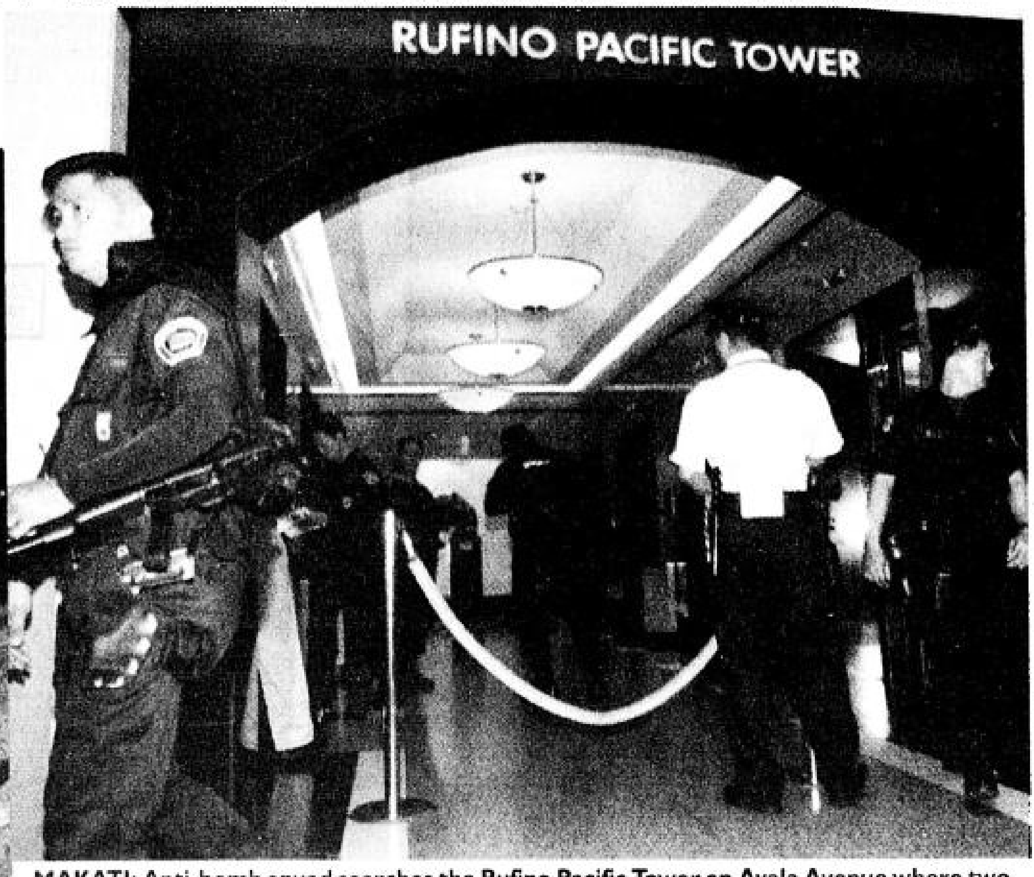
MANILA CITY HALL library (below) gets a bomb threat; WPD bomb disposal unit finds nothing.

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Saturday, October 19, 2002 ★★ 80 pages / 8 sections / vol. 17 / no. 313 P15 website: www.inq7.net

MANILA
POLICE
BOMB SQUAD

QUIAPO church: Woman is angry at the cops who go through her "suspicious" plastic bag while she was in the toilet.

EDSA-AYALA flyover where a grenade exploded and another detonated.



MAKATI!: Anti-bomb squad searches the Rufino Pacific Tower on Ayala Avenue where two foreign embassies hold office after a caller said a bomb was planted in the building.

PHOTOS BY ERIK ARAZAS AND RANDY HORMILLOSA

3 killed in bus bombing

GMA: More security for 'high-impact' terror targets

By Carlito Pablo

FEARING a Bali-like terrorist attack, President Macapagal-Arroyo last night ordered the "hardening" of "high-impact" terrorist targets in the country.

The President chaired a meeting of the Cabinet Oversight Committee on Internal Security from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., during which terrorist attacks were identified.

"The President doesn't want another Bali," National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said in a briefing, referring to the deadly bombing in Bali, Indonesia, that killed almost 200 people, mostly foreign tourists.

"We have identified some high-impact targets and we're instituting measures to harden them," Golez said.

Golez did not identify the targets, even as he branded as "disinformation" text mes-

GMA: MORE/ A17

Market nervous; peso, stocks tumble

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PESO slid to a new 14-month low of 53.29 to a dollar, and the stock market sank to its lowest in 11 months yesterday on security concerns and worries over slowing growth prospects.

Bangko Sentral Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco said the central bank would intervene if necessary to ensure stability in the peso.

MARKET/ A7

VIP visitor for the youngest victim of the Zamboanga bombing, 2-year-old Bobby John Gonzales, who's confined at the city's Brent Hospital.

DENNIS SABANGAN

4 Zambo blast suspects hunted

By Carlito Pablo, Martin Marfil and Julie Alipala, *PDI Mindanao Bureau*

THE MANHUNT is on.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, visiting the site of Thursday's twin bombings in Zamboanga City yesterday, said government authorities had already identified and sketched the four suspects, including a woman, responsible for the attacks which killed seven and wounded 152.

"We have already four suspects. We are tracking them down," the President said.

The military has blamed the Abu Sayyaf bandit group for the bombings, but Ms Macapagal would only say that the suspects have been identified.

"Let's wait until the four suspects are arrested and charged. Then the authorities can make statements about who's behind the attack," she added.

The President declined to confirm the military's initial claim that the Abu Sayyaf and the militant fundamentalist group Jemaah Islamiyah were responsible for the bombings.

"After they're (the suspects) picked up and charged next week, then the authorities can make more statements that are responsible in the sense that they are corroborated by empirical evidence," she said.

4 ZAMBO/ A18

A bomb-scare wave sweeps Metro Manila

By Philip Tubeza and Leila Salaverria

THREE persons were killed and 22 injured when an explosion tore through a packed passenger bus on Edsa-Balintawak, Quezon City at about 10:15 last night.

The explosion in the back of the Golden Hi-Way Transit bus bound for Novaliches from Baclaran ripped off its roof and part of its carriage and sent debris flying 20 to 30 yards away.

An hour later, workers were still trying to retrieve the badly mangled bodies from the vehicle, which had about 60 seats.

Police said many of the casualties suffered burn injuries.

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez, who inspected the blast site, said that police have told him that the explosives used were exactly the same as materials used in a wave of bombings that hit Manila in Dec. 30, 2000.

Earlier, a bomb-scare wave swept Metro Manila a day after twin bombs exploded in Zamboanga City.

A fragmentation grenade exploded in a Makati City flyover, another was found on the street below it and at least five bomb threats disrupted work in buildings in Manila, Quezon City and Makati.

Text messages warning about possible bombings in malls and other crowded areas within 72 hours also flooded the country's cell phone systems.

The Edsa-Ayala flyover explosion,

3 KILLED/ A18

Raves for Lea Salonga in Broadway comeback

By Leah Salterio

NEW YORK—More than a decade after she became an international theater star with her Broadway debut in "Miss Saigon," Lea Salonga, 31, again conquered the theater capital of America with the revival of the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical at the Virginia Theater on 42nd Street.

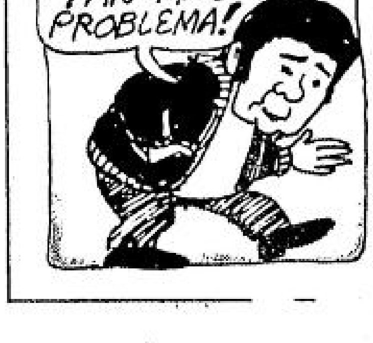
Salonga performed before a full house Thursday night (Friday morning in Manila) at the gala opening on Broadway of "Flower Drum Song," and earned applause for every number as well as a long standing ovation at the end.

The raves were plentiful for the smallest member of the entire Asian cast who enthralled the audience from the time she sauntered onstage to sing "A Hundred Million Miracles" while holding a flower drum.

"She proved once again that she's a world-class talent," said Fe Conway, who works at the United Nations headquarters in Manhattan.

RAVES/ A6

LDP taps FPJ for '04 but will he oblige?


MANANALO AKO... YAN ANG PROBLEMA!

By Jun Malig
PDI Central Luzon Desk

ANGELES CITY—But will the "Panday" oblige?

Members of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP) have agreed to unite to support actor Fernando Poe Jr. as the opposition's standard-bearer in the 2004 elections, Sen. Teresa Aquino-Ore-

LDP/ A6

Love won't let Assunta, Jules wait

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Love can't wait.

Negros Occidental Rep. Julio "Jules" Ledesma IV confirmed on Thursday that he and sexy star Assunta de Rossi are getting married soon, way before their original plan of getting hitched in 2004.

The congressman, however, declined to give the specific place and date of the wedding although he said it would take place in Negros Occidental's first district, which he represents in Congress.

"It could be as early as two weeks from now," he told the INQUIRER.

"Perhaps all mayors (of the first district) will be witnesses or co-officiators

LOVE/ A7

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: ARMIN ADINA, PDI RESEARCH/10/19/02

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	**Roxas**	Partly CLoudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	**Cebu**	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	**Tacloban**	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	**Gen. Santos**	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	**Zamboanga**	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	**Cagayan de Oro**	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	**Davao**	Cloudy with Rains

Second FRONTPAGE

GMA appoints Azcuna to high court

By Carlito Pablo

AS expected, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday announced the appointment of Adolf Sevilla Azcuna as associate justice of the Supreme Court.

Azcuna, the former chief legal counsel and press secretary of former President Corazon Aquino, is the sixth appointee to the high court of Ms Macapagal who will have named eight, or more than half of the 15-member tribunal before the end of her term in 2004.

Associate Justices Josue Bellosillo and Vicente Mendoza will be retiring in 2003.

Ms Macapagal's SC appointees include Associate Justices Antonio Carpio, Renato Corona, Alicia Austria-Martinez, Romeo Callejo and Conchita Carpio-Morales.

Interviewed yesterday, the new high court magistrate vowed to "bring the court closer to the poor" during his seven-year term.

Quoting the maxim that those who have less in life should have more in law, he said the poor's access to the courts should be improved.

To do this, he said the Supreme Court should drastically lower court fees or totally exempt the poor from paying docket fees.

"The court itself should be more aware of the needs of the poor. I'm sure the (justices) are aware of this already. But I'll consult them," he said.

The 63-year-old Azcuna who will be serving the high court for the next seven years (the mandatory retirement age is 70) has never had any direct judicial experience.

"But I worked for the court as a lawyer helping a justice," said Azcuna who was an aide of Jose P. Benzon, the former Court of Appeals presiding justice and later SC associate justice from 1963 to 1968.

"I thank God, the President who appointed me, the JBC and SC (members) who recommended me, and all my friends who supported and prayed for me," said Azcuna.

He said he was happy about the appointment and would try his best "to serve well."

The Bantay Katarungan civil society group which opposed Azcuna's appointment warned that his presence in the highest court would have "far-reaching repercussions."

Its adviser and trustee, former senator Jovito Salonga, said Malacañang should face the consequences of its decision.

"If a trial were to be held in the future, and if this comes up during the hearing of the case against Benjamin "Kokoy" Romualdez, it will be an embarrassment to the SC and to the appointing authority," Salonga said.

The INQUIRER published the group's arguments against Azcuna's appointment last Friday.

"At the same time that you (the INQUIRER) were writing it, they were appointing him. They will be held accountable for it, especially by the youths of the land," Salonga said.

Bantay Katarungan has accused Azcuna of fronting for the Trans-middle East Philippines Equities Inc., an alleged dummy firm of Romualdez, the brother-in-law of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos who is facing multiple graft cases. It claimed that Azcuna, while sitting as president and board chair of the firm, made it possible for Romualdez to take control of PCI Bank.

Azcuna has maintained his innocence, claiming that the acquisition of PCI Bank shares "was done very much behind my back."

The President signed Azcuna's appointment papers on Oct. 17 a day after the Judicial and Bar Council submitted to her a shortlist of nominees to replace retired Justice Santiago Kapunan.

Kapunan retired on Aug. 12. A vacancy must be filled within 90 days.

Ms Macapagal had publicly expressed her preference for Azcuna when she was filling up two previous vacancies in the high court but Azcuna failed to make it to the JBC shortlist at the time. He applied again. when the Kapunan vacancy occurred.

The President has admitted that Mrs. Aquino had talked to her about Azcuna when the two met during the death anniversary of the martyred opposition leader, Benigno Aquino Jr., last Aug. 21.

Azcuna finished law, cum laude, at the Ateneo de Manila University where he has been a professor of law since 1990. He placed fourth in the 1962 bar examinations.

He was a partner in the Bengzon law offices before serving in the Constitutional Commission that drafted the 1987 Constitution.

He put up his own law firm in 1987 and became Mrs. Aquino's chief presidential legal counsel from October 1987 to June 1989.

Azcuna also served as press secretary and spokesperson to Mrs. Aquino. He was director of the Development Bank of the Philippines in 1990 and chair of the Philippine National Bank in 1991.

He was born and and grew up in Zamboanga del Norte province. His father was a former governor of the province while his mother was a public schoolteacher.

Ang firm didn't file info sheet with SEC

'It was an oversight,' he says

By Elena R. Torrijos

WHO exactly are the people behind Seed Capital Ventures, the company which holds the majority stake in the Bankwise thrift bank that was reportedly bought with the help of President Macapagal-Arroyo's private publicist, Dante Ang?

Ang has not filed the required general information sheet (GIS) with the Securities and Exchange Commission since 1996, and possibly even earlier, the government computer database showed.

Contacted yesterday, Ang said his failing to submit the document was "an oversight."

"I'm sorry. I'll fill up what is lacking," he said.

The GIS is supposed to hold key information about a company, including investments of corporate funds in another corporation, names of stockholders and number of shares subscribed, address and telephone number, among other items.

According to the general information sheet that Bankwise filed with the SEC on May 24, Seed Capital Ventures owns 222 million of the bank's total 737.5 million common shares, which is equivalent to a 30 percent stake in the thrift bank.

The company's address is listed as Unit 107 10/F Reachmond (sic) Plaza 21, San Miguel Ave. cor. Lourdes St. Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

The space where the company's taxpayer's identification number is supposed to be reflected was left blank.

Ang, who supposedly directly owns only one common share in the bank, has no taxpayer's ID recorded in the form.

Although it has no recorded GIS filed with the SEC, Seed Capital Ventures filed in April 2001 its financial statements for 2000, certified by a certain Elizabeth Laqueo.

According to the company's financial statements, its total assets as of end-2000 amounted to P1.624 million, or nearly half of its P3 million asset base the year before. Paid-up capital stood at P300,000. Earnings for the year totaled P17,495.

But another company, Seed Capital Corp., whose name sounds very similar to Seed Capital Ventures Inc., listed among its incorporators a Roberto S. Guevarra who reportedly asked Ang to help raise P250 million to buy a 60 percent stake in Bankwise.

Ang is now the chair of Bankwise.

Next to Seed Capital Ventures Inc., the next largest stockholder of Bankwise is Wise Holdings Inc., which owns 220.5 million shares of the bank, or almost 30 percent.

The documents of Wise Holdings could not be accessed yesterday as the SEC's database had already closed.

Other reported stockholders of Bankwise, each also holding one token share, include bank president Lazaro Madara, and directors Renato Z. Francisco, Vicente J. Campa Jr., Enrique Esteban, Antonio Ortigas and Marcial Balgos.

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UP law professor, ex-governor appointed PCGG commissioners

THE PRESIDENTIAL Commission on Good Government has finally completed its line-up of commissioners with with the appointment of two new commissioners yesterday.

Grace Pulido-Tan, another University of the Philippines law professor, will be joining fellow academics PCGG chair Haydee Yorac and commissioners Ruben Carranza Jr. and Victoria Avena, both of whom also teach at the UP law school.

The second new appointee is William Dichoso, a former governor of Laguna and a practicing lawyer since 1956.

Tan is a certfied public accountant and has practised here and in the United States where she is a member of the American Bar Association.

The PCGG, which is prosecuting the heirs and cronies of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, expects to benefit from Tan's expertise in taxation as the agency is also handling crony behest loans.

Dichoso replaced Jorge Sarmiento who resigned last month and is now president of the United Coconut Chemicals Inc., a subsidiary of the United Coconut Planters Bank.

The five-member PCGG has been operating with only four commissioners since July 2001. *Blanche S. Rivera*

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UK, Australia warn citizens on travel in RP

GREAT Britain and Australia yesterday warned their nationals about the dangers of travel to certain parts of the Philippines.

Two shopping mall blasts rocked the southern city of Zamboanga on Thursday, killing seven people and injuring more than 100 others.

"Threats against Australians and Australian interests in the Philippines are high, given possible terrorist action and civil disorder," the Australian Embassy in Manila said in its latest travel advisory.

"They should avoid large crowds and public gatherings, keep a low profile and vary routes and time of travel," it added.

Australia, however, is seeking a bilateral anti-terrorist agreement with the Philippines, the foreign office said.

The British Embassy said: "Caution is advised when travelling to or in coastal resorts.

"We strongly advise against all travel to the Zamboanga peninsula and islands south west of Mindanao. We advise against all holiday and other non-essential travel to other areas of Mindanao south or west of Davao City. We advise strong caution in Palawan, given recent incidents of kidnapping there."

"There is a general threat to Western interests in some parts of Southeast Asia. Following the Bali incident, (citizens) are advised to be alert, take sensible precautions and be extra vigilant in public places," the embassy said.

Foreign affairs spokesperson Victoriano Lecaros said the travel advisories were expcted in the light of the car bomb attack in the Indonesian island resort of Bali last weekend that killed more than 180 people, many of them Australian tourists along with some Britons.

"Let's cut them some slack," he said.

"They are under extreme stress from their citizens to do something about it." *Reports by Norman Bordadora and AFP*

NOTICE TO STOCKHOLDERS

RIDGE SPORTS AND COUNTRY CLUB CORP.

Upon the call of the majority of the stockholders, pursuant to Section 2, *Article II of the New By-Laws, certified by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on August 31, 1983*, a Special Stockholders' Meeting of the RIDGE SPORTS AND COUNTRY CLUB CORP. will be held on **30 October 2002, Wednesday**, 9:00 a.m. at the Clubhouse of the Ridge Resort and Convention Center, Silang Crossing, Tagaytay City.

AGENDA OF THE MEETING

Election of New Interim Board of Directors

Your presence is requested.

(Sgd.) **Joseph Bryan Hilary P. Davide**
Corporate Secretary

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Meralco set to pull plug on Beltran today

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE HOUSEHOLD of Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran—which has staunchly opposed the collection of Manila Electric Co.'s purchased power adjustment (PPA)—is bracing itself for an expected disconnection today of Meralco's electricity service.

Beltran had refused to pay the full amount of his electricity bill, and for the sixth month this October, had paid the bill minus Meralco's PPA charges. For each of the six months, he was issued a disconnection notice, which Meralco tried to implement in June but failed.

On Oct. 10, Meralco sent Beltran a 'personalized' notice giving him until today to settle the accumulated PPA charges of about P10,000.

Beltran continues to be defiant. "Why should I pay for the PPA even at this time, now that the charge is being increased again?" he asked in a statement.

The PPA is an automatic cost recovery mechanism which distributors like Meralco collect to cover for the cost of electricity above their government-approved basic charge.

Militants had protested the imposition and collection of the PPA as unjustified. In June, protests forced President Arroyo to order a reduction in the levy by the National Power Corporation from over P3.30 per kilowatt-hour to P1.71/kwh.

In the single-page notice addressed directly to Beltran, Meralco Commonwealth Branch manager Melinda Derpo thanked the labor leader-cum-lawmaker for offering to settle part of his September bill last Oct. 1.

"We acknowledge your desire to settle only the basic charge portion of your bill," Derpo said. "However, we are under instructions to collect the full amount of the bill including the PPA portion."

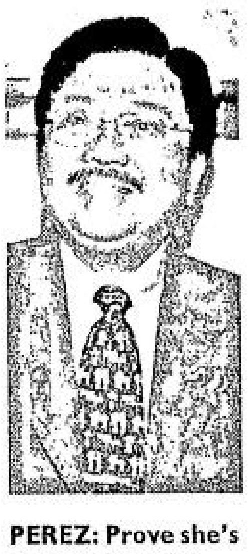
The Meralco official gave Beltran—who is expected to plane in from a trip to Iraq at 8 o' clock tonight—only until 12 noon to settle his account.

LTFRB to defer hearing on jeep fare

THE LAND Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) will defer hearings on a petition to raise jeepney fare by P1 because not all jeepney associations want an adjustment now.

The Pinag-isang Samahan ng mga Tsuper at Operators Nationwide (Piston) filed the petition on Thursday, citing the steady climb of diesel fuel prices over other major transport groups' general agreement it was not yet time for a fare increase. *Abigail L. Ho*

RP willing to return 'Angelica' to Sabah if . . .



PEREZ: Prove she's one of your own.

By Michael Lim Ubac and Norman Bordadora

THE PHILIPPINES would be willing to let "Angelica" return to Malaysia if Kuala Lumpur can prove that the 13-year-old deportee who accused Malaysian policemen of raping her was really one of their own, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said yesterday.

Perez said Malaysian authorities should also ensure Angelica's safety and help her obtain justice in the Malaysian justice system.

The Philippines filed a diplomatic protest over the alleged rape, which sparked outrage in the country.

Malaysian authorities have since claimed that Angelica, who had accused Malaysian guards of raping her before her expulsion from Sabah last month, was a homeless Malaysian citizen who had been associating with Filipino migrants.

On Tuesday, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad demanded an apology from the Philippines but the foreign affairs department rejected it.

Yesterday Perez said the country had no reason to apologize for taking up the cudgels for Angelica.

"We did nothing wrong. Why should we apologize . . . when they were the ones who deported Angelica to us. They should instead thank us," he said.

Perez, who insists that Angelica holds dual citizenship because her mother was a Filipino, has been reluctant to send the girl back because of security reasons. The girl remains in the care of the social welfare department.

He said Malaysian authorities should present documents—results of DNA tests, birth certificates—to support their claim.

Yesterday, the Malaysian embassy said Malaysia would pursue rape charges against the men who allegedly raped Angelica.

"The controversy over the confirmation of her nationality will not affect the investigations and subsequent judicial process of the rape charges against the perpetrators of this heinous crime," an embassy statement said.

The embassy also expressed its appreciation for the Philippine government's care and protection of Angelica.

But it also criticized the Philippine government for not giving the same treatment to the thousands of Filipinos who were forced to illegally enter Malaysia out of poverty.

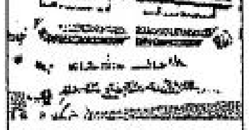
"The embassy is hopeful that the controversy will soon come to pass and will not affect existing bilateral ties," the embassy statement said. *With a report from AFP*

Dole to review Metro wage next month

EVEN without a petition from labor, the regional wage board will automatically review the need for another wage increase in Metro Manila as soon as the freeze on wage hike expires on Nov. 5.

Cirilo Lagunzad, chief of the National Wage and Productivity Commission, said the National Capital Region wage board would study the economic indicators that could prompt a new wage increase. But he warned workers not to expect an increase based on speculations in the market. *Blanche Rivera*

San Cristobal Garden Homes
Calamba, Laguna



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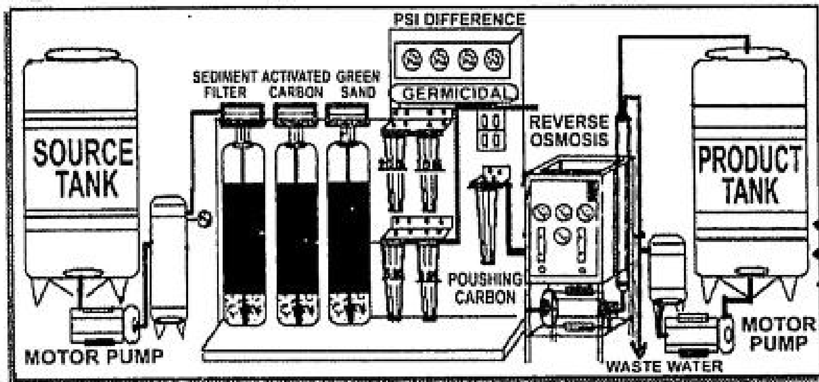

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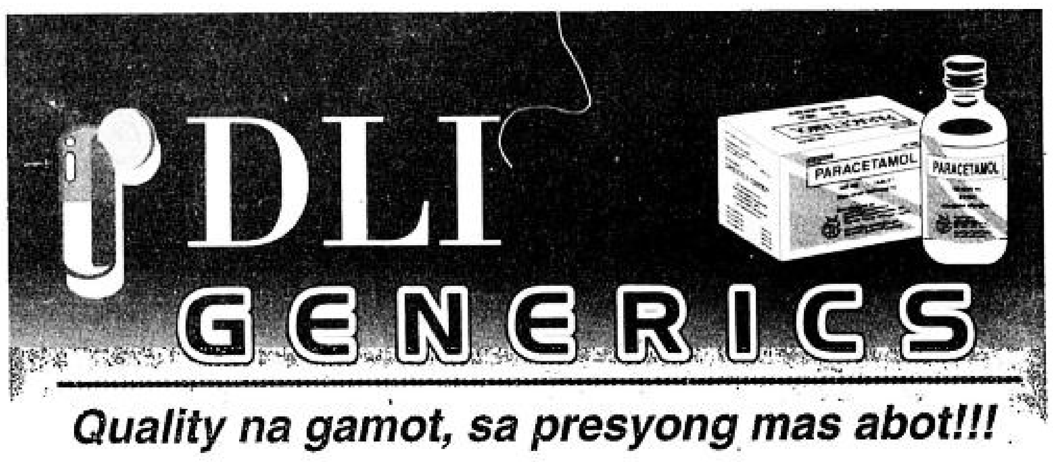

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Allopurinol Tablet 300 mg	5.00	Co-trimoxazole Suspension (TM-40 mg, SMZ-200 mg) 60 mL	25.00
Amoxicillin Capsule 250 mg	2.80	Co-trimoxazole Caplet Forte (TM-160 mg, SMZ-800 mg)	2.20
Amoxicillin Capsule 500 mg	4.00	Dextromethorphan Tablet 10 mg	1.00
Amoxicillin Drops	37.00	Dicycloverine Syrup 10 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	24.00
Amoxicillin Suspension 250 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	49.00	Mebendazole Suspension 100 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	23.00
Bromhexine HCL Syrup 4 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	26.00	Mefenamic Acid Suspension 50 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	24.00
Carbocisteine (SCMC) Capsule 500 mg	2.50	Mefenamic Acid Tablet 500 mg	1.80
Carbocisteine Syrup (SCMC) 100 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	32.00	Paracetamol Syrup 125 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	20.60
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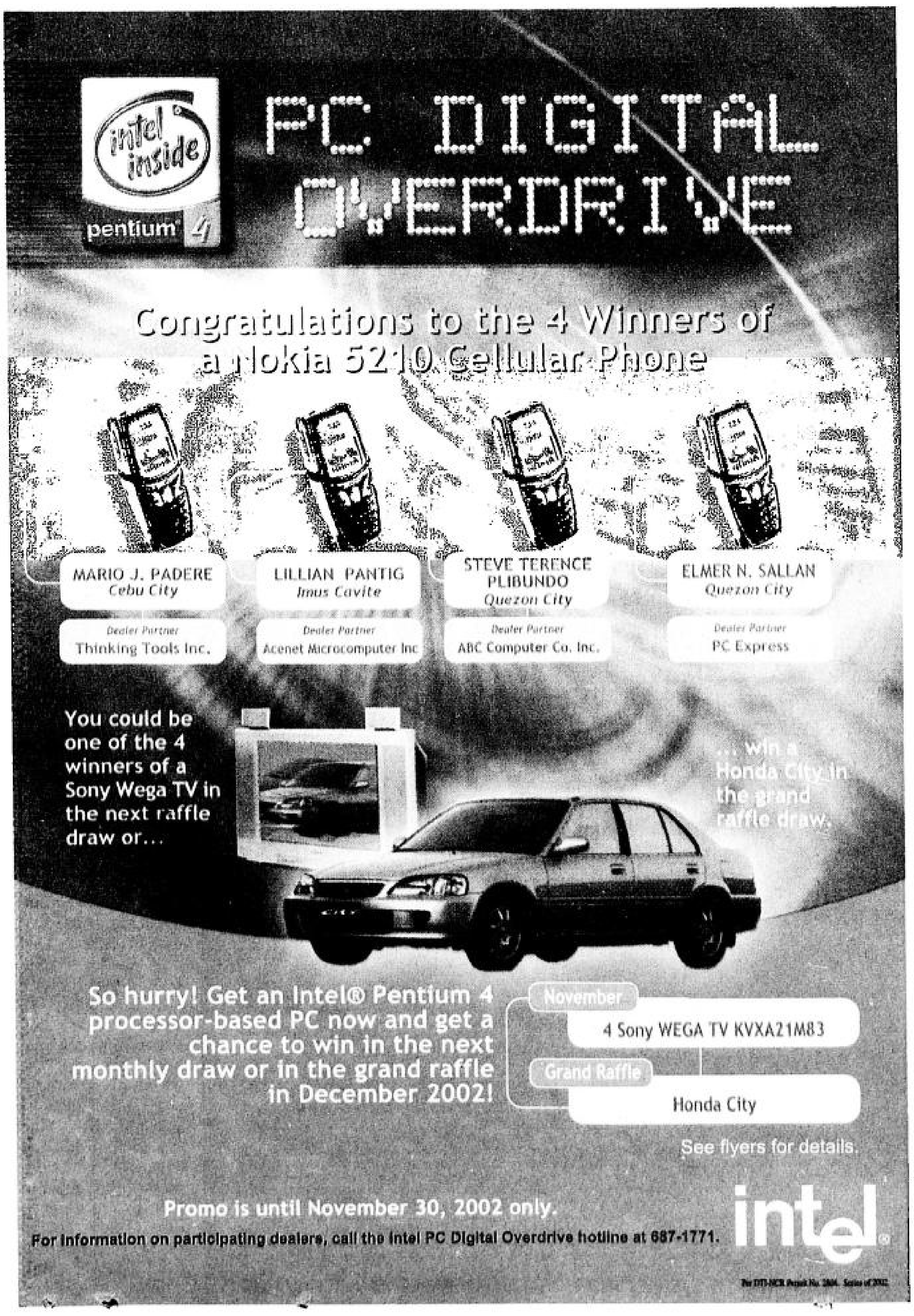

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Cops kill 2 NPA rebels who attacked telecom site in S. Cotabato

GOVERNMENT forces killed two communist guerrillas who attacked a telecommunications relay station in South Cotabato, police said Friday.

New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas attacked the relay station of Globe Telecom Inc. near Malapatan town late Thursday, regional police commander Chief Superintendent Jose Dalumpines said.

Police were tipped off about the attack and laid an ambush, killing two of them, he added.

A security guard at the relay station was wounded, Dalumpines said.

It was the latest in a series of attacks by the communist insurgents on civilian targets like telecom stations, construction and quarrying equipment and police stations.

The NPA is the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines. It has been blacklisted as a terrorist organization by the United States.

Talks between the government and the communists collapsed last year after the NPA killed two legislators.

AFP

Free therapy clinic sites

PATIENTS who wish to avail themselves of the free therapy services to be conducted this weekend by the UP Manila College of Allied Medical Professions (CAMP) Alumni Association must bring a letter from their doctor requesting therapy services.

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Following are some of the clinic sites in Metro Manila: Center for Goals, Communicare Therapy Center for Children, Able Center, HELP Therapy Center, Skillbuilders Therapy Center, Thera Needs, First Step Therapy Center, Therabilities, Fr. Monti Foundation, Primary Skills, HEIGHTS, Healing Touch, Angel Gabriel OPST Clinic, Rehab Partners.

Other clinic sites include: ACES Therapy Clinic (Pangasinan-La Union-Ilocos), Child's Dream Foundation/Brent International School (Baguio-Benguet), Life Skills Therapy Center (Tarlac-Nueva Ecija-Pampanga), HARP, Speech Milestones (Batangas-Mindoro), Katrina Los Baños Clinic (Albay), Kidzcope (Iloilo-Guimaras-Bacolod) Milestones Therapy Center (Cebu-Bohol-Davao), Tatunay-Montemayor Clinic (Davao).

For inquiries, patients may call the UP CAMP secretariat at (02) 526-7125 or (02)526-2271. The first nationwide occupational therapy, physical therapy and speech pathology free clinic is being held in celebration of the UP CAMP's 40th anniversary.

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RP hails Indon move against radical cleric

A TOP Philippine security official yesterday praised the stance Indonesia has taken against terrorism following the recent bomb attacks in Bali, including its indication it may arrest an alleged spiritual leader of Islamic militants.

An Indonesian police general said Friday that Abu Bakar Bashir, an alleged leader of the al-Qaida-linked Jemaah Islamiyah group, was considered a suspect in a separate spate of church attacks across Indonesia in 2000 and could be arrested during questioning Saturday.

Jemaah Islamiyah, a Southeast Asia-based group accused of plotting terrorist attacks in Singapore earlier this year, has been suspected in last Saturday's bombings on Bali. Indonesian police say Bashir is not a suspect in the Bali attacks.

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said the Philippines and other Southeast Asian countries had been dismayed over Indonesia's inaction against Bashir despite his alleged terrorist links.

"That's a good move... a positive development," Golez replied when asked during a briefing with foreign correspondents about Indonesia's move to possibly arrest Bashir.

"Many countries in Southeast Asia, including the Philippines, found it disconcerting that somebody suspected internationally of heading a terrorist organization was going around freely," Golez said.

Indonesian authorities took steps against Bashir after Indonesian investigators questioned Omar Al-Faruq, a suspected Southeast Asian operative for al-Qaida who is now in US custody. Bashir has repeatedly denied any involvement in the church bombings as well as the Bali attack.

Golez also cited the crucial support declared by Indonesia's Parliament for a proposed decree which would grant President Megawati Sukarnoputri's administration expanded power to fight terrorism.

While Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines have cracked down and jailed many suspected Jemaah Islamiyah members in recent months, Indonesia has largely been reluctant to follow suit, fearing a backlash from Islamic extremists. *AP*

Apec to issue anti-terror stand in Mexico summit

TAIPEI—Asia-Pacific leaders meeting in Mexico this month will issue a statement on counter-terrorism focusing on denying would-be attackers access to ships and planes, a Taiwan delegate said on Friday.

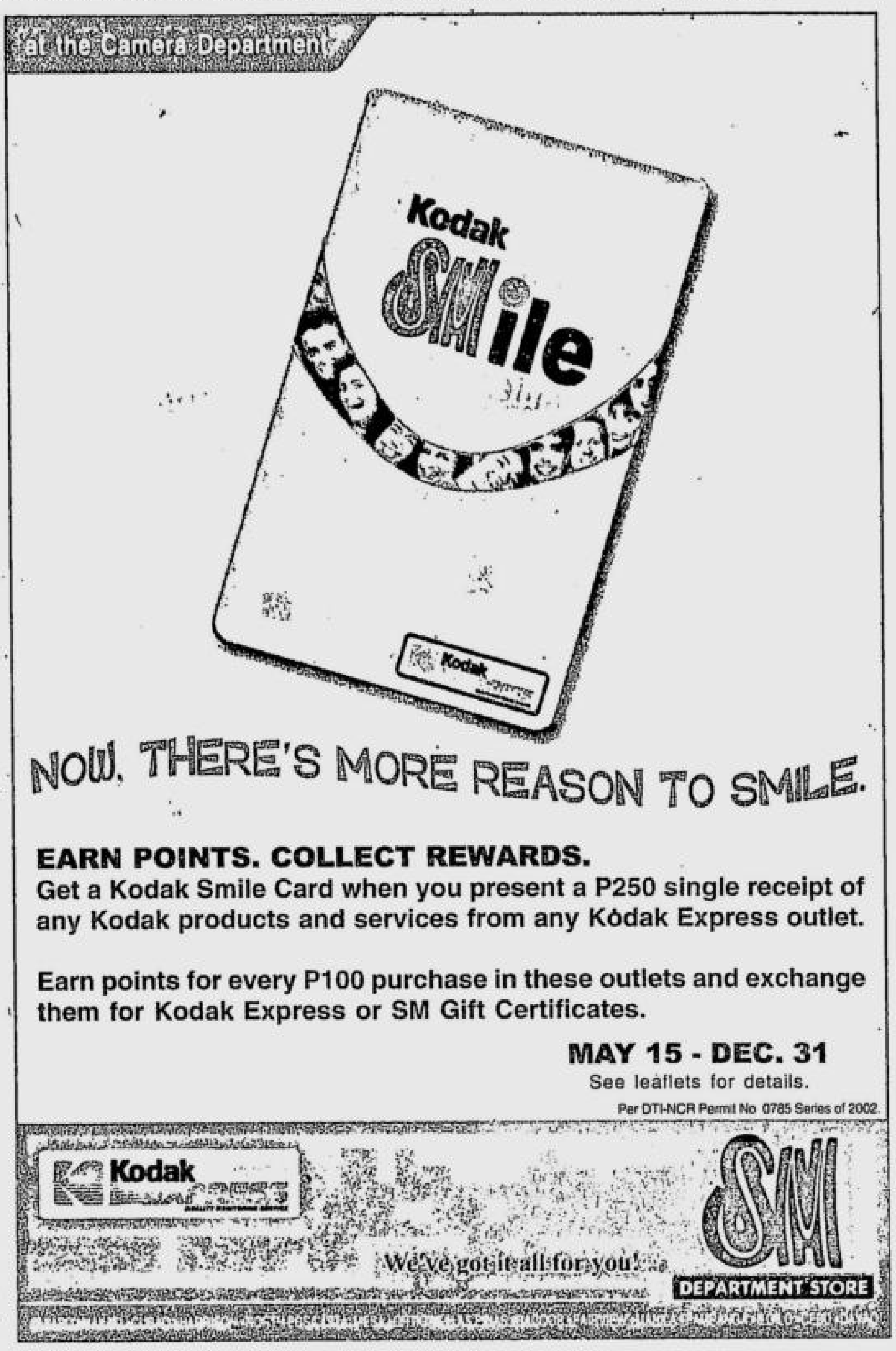
Leaders of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation's 21 members meeting at the plush seaside resort of Los Cabos, Mexico, on Oct. 26-27, will also commit to shielding the region from economic turmoil.

"Terrorism continues to be a threat to our common resolve to make our economies a safer place to live and to maintain a stable environment for trade and investment," a draft of a Apec leaders' declaration said.

The initiative aims to strengthen customs and immigration enforcement without slowing the movement of goods and people, said the source, who requested anonymity.

Highlights of the statement, an advance copy of which was provided to Reuters, are as follows:

- Improve the safety of airline passengers by introducing new, highly effective baggage-screening procedures and equipment in all Apec major airports by 2005.
- Reinforce flight-deck doors on passenger aircraft by April 2003 wherever possible.
- Adopt global standards for application of biometrics in entry and exit procedures and travel documents.
- Enhance air cargo security.
- Quickly implement a container security regime, help identify and examine high-risk containers and provide advance electronic information including location as early as possible in the supply chain.
- Promote ship and port security plans by July 2004 and install automatic identification systems on certain ships by December 2004.
- Adopt common standards for electronic customs reporting by 2005 that provide for standardized customs data to target high-risk goods and containers and to facilitate trade.
- Promote private-sector adoption of new, high standards of supply-chain security.
- Assure the integrity and professional conduct of immigration service personnel.
- Enhance cooperation on fighting piracy in the region. The statement was drafted before the Oct. 12 bombing in Bali that left 181 dead, many of them Australian, and scores injured. *Reuters*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LDP taps FPJ for '04 but will he oblige?

From page A1

ta told a dwGV-FM talk show yesterday.

Oreta, however, said the close friend of deposed President Joseph Estrada had yet to respond to the LDP proposal for him to toss his hat in the 2004 ring. "I will not deny that there are talks for him to lead the opposition. He has not responded, but we requested him to answer as soon as possible," the senator said.

Government officials and residents of Pampanga, home province of President Macapagal-Arroyo, are worried about the possibility that Poe will run against her.

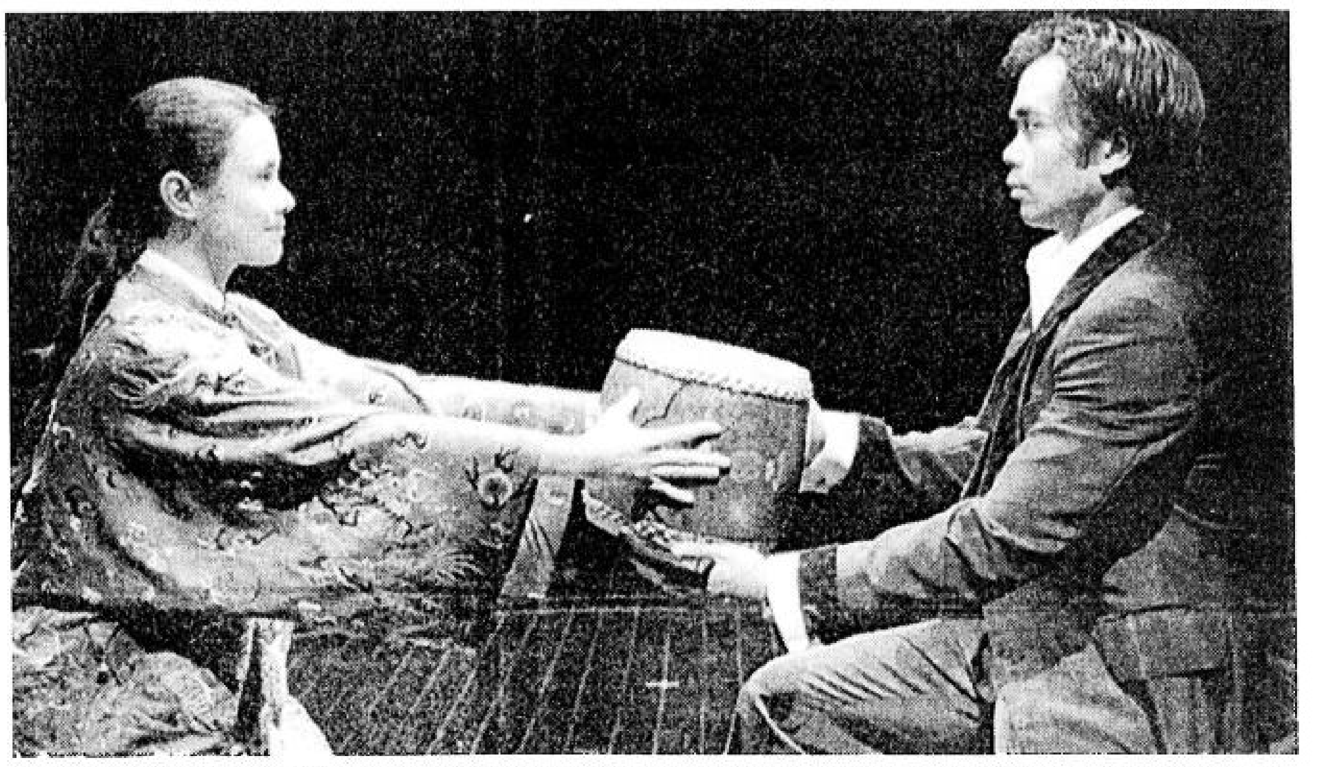
Several mayors and other public officials mostly belonging to the ruling Lakas-NUCD have admitted to the INQUIRER in interviews and casual conversations that it was "very likely" for Poe to trounce Ms Macapagal in the race. The officials, who asked not to be named, cited the actor's charisma and popularity among the masses as the primary reasons for this.

A mayor compared Poe with Pampanga Gov. Manuel Lapid, also an action star, who has never suffered a poll defeat since 1992 when he sought and won the vice governorship.

"What happened to Lito Lapid could happen to FPJ if he decides to run for president," the mayor said. "They are too popular to be beaten in a popular election."

"Kapampangans should pray" that Poe will not decide to run against Ms Macapagal in 2004, according to another mayor.

"If he does, Pampanga will again be ignored. We don't want this to happen," the mayor said, adding that the only thing Kapampangans could do in the event of a Poe victory at the polls was to hope that "he will be different from Estrada."



A DRUM roll for the stars of the "Flower Drum Song," Lea Salonga and Jose Llana who are Filipino actors getting rave reviews for the gala premiere Thursday of the revival of the Broadway musicale.

STOP THE PERDITION OF THE RICE INDUSTRY-PART 2

RICE SELF-SUFFICIENCY IS GENUINE FOOD SECURITY

As we commemorated World Food Day on October 16, we, the unions of employees and workers, the organizations of farmers, rice retailers, small businessmen, various sectors and stakeholders of the grains industry and agriculture industries, took the occasion to reflect on whether our food policies could really sustain us in the years to come. As our government veers away from efforts that will make us self-reliant in rice, and because of our dependence on foreign loans, our country has become captive to the globalization agenda of the multilateral financial institutions (MFIs) like the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and the Asian Development Bank. Their loan conditionalities, such as the reduction of farm subsidy and the full liberalization of the trading of agricultural products, has only marginalized further our poor farmers. The rich countries, which control these MFIs, have caught us in their trap. While they erect barriers to close their markets from the agriculture products of developing countries, they also provide high subsidies to their own farmers.

The rice policy of the present administration shows an all-out adherence to the demands of the MFIs. In her first State of the Nation Address, President Arroyo bared her administration's thrust to further liberalize the rice trade. And her succeeding pronouncements affirmed her seriousness in pursuing the full privatization of rice imports for food security stocks. She even directed the imposition of 50% tariff on NFA's rice imports, notwithstanding the NFA charter which mandates the agency to undertake tariff-free rice importation for national food security. Isn't it illogical to extract money from one government agency and remit the payment to the government itself? Isn't it stupid to accuse the NFA of draining the nation's coffers, yet deliberately allowing it to sink deeper in the quicksand of financial hemorrhage?

Added to these executive actions are three (3) pending bills in the legislature, in compliance to the conditionalities of the existing $175-M ADB - Grains Sector Development Program Loan whose main component is the privatization of the NFA. HB 3339 and SB 1912 call for the removal of the quantitative restriction on rice imports and the privatization of rice importation for food security stocks. HB 4698, on the other hand, is aimed at dismembering the present structure of the NFA and creating instead a "National Food Corporation" which will issue shares of stocks under the Securities and Exchange Commission, and a "National Rice Board", an inutile regulatory body.

Passage of these bills will trigger the unrestricted inflow of rice imports, worsen problems on rice smuggling and ultimately weaken government presence in the rice market. Subsequently, this would encourage the institution of a cartel and the eventual full control of the lucrative P200-billion rice industry by big business. Our dependence on imported rice would rob us of our dreams for rice self-sufficiency.

What happens to our food security? Relying fully on foreign sources to supply us our rice requirement would make us vulnerable to the vagaries and predatory characteristics of the world market. In the last 41 years (1961 to 2002) of world rice trading, more than half the period or 24 years were characterized by higher rice prices in the world market compared to the wholesale price of local rice.

Then comes Presidential Adviser Angelito M. Sarmiento, recently designated as NFA Council Chair (although the NFA Charter and Administrative Code says that position belongs to the Agriculture Secretary) and Representative Ben Cruz of Butil. These people, while professing to represent the interests of the farmers, are in fact advocating rice trade liberalization and import dependency to the detriment of our local palay farmers. They have recommended the importation of palay and had actively advocated for the filing and are now lobbying for the passage of the above-mentioned three pending bills. Recently, three out of 45 *Tindahan ni Gloria Labandera* rolling stores managed by Butil were apprehended by NFA personnel for diverting rice (which were intended for the poor) to traders. Also, it was said that NFA Administrator Anthony R.A. Abad was eased out because he strongly opposed the open rice importation policy advocated by Sarmiento.

We have received reports that personalities favoring rice trade liberalization have devised various means to exploit our poor farmers. They are misrepresenting tricycle drivers and sidewalk vendors as legitimate farmers cooperatives and using them to get rice allocations under the NFA's *Farmers as Distributor Program.* The leeches have also reportedly been contacting big-time rice traders for an "allocation to import" purportedly to be awarded to their farmers' organization. Others have reportedly been obtaining "advances" from a rice trader via first class plane tickets to the US in exchange for commitments that the right to import rice awarded to their organization shall be sold to this trader.

It must be emphasized that even as President Arroyo trumpeted her desire to uplift the farmers' status to rice importers, the farmers themselves were apprehensive about the plan. A series of consultations with farmer organizations by the NFA and DA from September to December 2001, revealed the farmers' fears: they don't have the technical and financial capability to undertake such a gargantuan task. They even warned that some of them would only end up as dummies of big rice traders and financiers. And it is happening now.

While the President is having plenty of sex, the poor, who comprise around 75% of our population and who spend 73%-100% of their daily income on food, are piling up plenty of debts and plenty of problems figuring out how to survive in these uncertain times.

What we want to emphasize is that it is very important for the government to have a strong presence in the rice market. The 1995 rice crisis is a grim reminder that private traders can easily manipulate the rice trade if the government cannot intervene because of insufficient buffer stocks. Without the NFA stocks, rice prices nationwide ballooned from PhP15/kg to PhP30/kg in a matter of days.

Products subjected to liberalization such as onions, corn, peanuts, coffee and recently tomatoes carrots, potatoes and other vegetables, have rendered our local producers bankrupt. Rice cannot go the way these other products did. It is the staple food of majority of Filipinos and millions of farmers, workers and small businessmen depend on it for their livelihood.

Hence, we reiterate our stand: to attain rice self-sufficiency and genuine food security, the government should scrap its rice trade liberalization policy. Instead, it must implement true agrarian reform and complement this with adequate subsidy or support to production, credit and marketing, including irrigation and postharvest facilities. We must unleash the productive forces of our farmers and rural folks. The rural economy should be the foundation of the national economy in the march towards a nationalist food security program.

"THE ROAD TO PERDITION" is littered with danger. But the fictional perilous trek in this film is nothing compared to the real danger posed by vested interests that espouse import dependence, for their own profit.

Once again, we call on HER EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO to hold the reins of her wild horses, lest they lead us all to the abyss. RICE SELF-SUFFICIENCY IS LIFE TO THE FILIPINOS.

ADVANCE A NATIONALIST FOOD SECURITY PROGRAM!
SCRAP RICE TRADE LIBERALIZATION & NFA PRIVATIZATION/DECOUPLING!
RECALL THE APPOINTMENT OF ANGELITO M. SARMIENTO AS NFA COUNCIL CHAIRMAN!
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Raves for Lea Salonga ...

From page A1

As in "Miss Saigon," Salonga wears a cheongsam and sings stirring songs in this musical. But unlike "Miss Saigon" where her character dies in the end, "Flower Drum Song" has a happy ending.

"Lea made me cry in 'Miss Saigon,' but she made me smile in this musical," said Meg Doromal, who had flown in from Manila with her parents to watch the show.

"I saw Lea in 'Les Miserables' when I was in the 7th grade and then I saw her again now. She's as great as ever," said a female Fil-Am student.

"I really loved it. I liked the script and the story, which has a lot of soul," said ABS-CBN executive Gina Lopez. "The actor and the acting were superb."

Also in the audience were Hollywood actor Timothy Hutton, TV personality Lisa Ling, who is Barbara Walters' co-host in "The View," the late Richard Rodgers' daughter Mary Rodgers, Pat Suzuki, a member of the original "Flower Drum Song" production, and award-winning Asian-American playwright David Henry Hwang, who wrote the new book of "Flower Drum Song."

"I tried to write the book that Oscar Hammerstein would have written if he were Asian-American," said Hwang, whose other credits include "M. Butterfly," for which he won a Tony Award, and "Aida," now also playing at the Palace Theater on 47th Street.

Salonga's mother Ligaya, her brother Gerard and her Los Angeles-based fiancé Robert Chien were also present, as well as ABS-CBN executive Tina Monzon-Palma and talent JM Rodriguez, who came here to do a TV special on Salonga for airing on the network.

On the long stretch of Broadway, Salonga's name on the theater marquee is prominently displayed alongside the marquees of other celebrity performers such as Vanessa Williams in "Into the Woods," Molly Ringwald in "Cabaret," Kathleen Turner and Jason Biggs in "The Graduate," Stanley Tucci in "Frankie and Johnny" and Michael Crawford, the original lead in "Phantom of the Opera" and who is now in a new musical, "Dance of the Vampires."

While "Miss Saigon" had show-stealing props like a helicopter or a shiny Cadillac, "Flower Drum Song" boasts dazzling period costumes and spectacular choreography.

"I was very impressed with Robert Longbottom's choreography and direction," said JM Rodriguez, himself a former actor of Repertory Philippines.

"The movements were very theatrical even without the use of big sets to impress the audience. The stylized blocking and the use of Chinese movements in the romantic duets were very effective," he added.

Several songs in the original production have been turned into grand numbers performed onstage at Club Chop Suey, the Western-style night spot in San Francisco's Chinatown.

LA run

Salonga made her "Flower Drum Song" debut at the Mark Taper Forum in downtown Los Angeles in October last year. The musical's current run reunites her with her LA leading man, Jose Llana, whose previous Broadway stage credits include "The King and I," "Rent" and "Martin Guerre."

The silver-haired Alvin Ing is the only member of the new cast who performed in the original touring production of "Flower Drum Song." Then only part of the ensemble, Ing now plays Big Ear Chin.

Jodi Long, whose parents were headliners in the Chop Suey circuit when she was only 8 years old, is part of the new cast as the fiery Madame Liang.

Salonga returned to New York, where she is based, last July to start rehearsals for "Flower Drum Song."

She will perform eight times a week, including Wednesday and Sunday matinees. Her understudy is Ma-an Dionisio, who joins the ensemble on ordinary performances.

Tickets are being sold for $100 each for regular performances. During a special benefit preview sponsored by the Asian Cultural Council last Oct. 14, the tickets cost a whopping $1,000 each.

Salonga has agreed to do the musical for 10 months, which means she will be eligible for nomination as best actress in a musical for next year's Tony Awards.

She won a Tony for "Miss Saigon."

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(PDI Oct 19 & 20 2002)

Love won't let Assunta, Jules wait

From page A1

at my wedding."

Asked why they decided to move up their wedding date, Ledesma said they had always planned a civil wedding earlier than the church wedding.

He added that since he and De Rossi are now living together, it was essential for them to wed so that they would not be "living in sin."

PDI PHOTO

ASSUNTA: "Woman with heart of gold refined by the fires of life."

JULES: We don't want to live in sin. PDI PHOTO

Banns already signed

Ledesma said he and De Rossi, an Italian citizen, already signed their wedding banns at the Italian Embassy in Manila on Monday.

"It will take 14 days for the Italian Embassy to issue a certificate of eligibility after which we plan to get married in civil rites," he said.

Ledesma, 41, and De Rossi, 19, had previously announced that they would get married in 2004 yet because De Rossi needed to finish her movie commitments first and also to prove that he had no plans of using her popularity to further his political career.

Last Thursday, Ledesma said he and De Rossi will still have a big church wedding either in January 2004 or in December 2003.

He explained that he and De Rossi cannot have a church wedding right away because the actress has three more movies to shoot.

"It is difficult to plan a big wedding on short notice," Ledesma said, pointing out that it took his first wife, Marivic Pek, nine months to plan their wedding.

Marivic died in February 2002 after a two-year battle with cancer. She and Ledesma have two children—Cristina, 9, and Julio Carlos V, 5.

Kidnap brought them closer

The two children were kidnapped in San Juan, Metro Manila, last Sept. 13 while they were being driven on their way to school. They were released unharmed four days later. The congressman had said that they used the government's "tried and tested formula" in seeking the release of the children but had refused to confirm or deny that ransom was paid.

The kidnapping brought Ledesma and De Rossi closer.

De Rossi never left Ledesma's side during what he described as one of the most difficult moments of his life. De Rossi had even pleaded with the kidnappers on the telephone to release the children.

The couple also picked up the children at the Makati Medical Center where the kids were dropped off. The children hugged the actress upon seeing her.

Inseparable

De Rossi and Ledesma first met last November during a taping of the television gag show "Bubble Gang" where she is a regular star.

They started meeting regularly last January and have become inseparable since.

Ledesma had described De Rossi as a "woman with a heart of gold refined by the fires of life."

"What is inside of Assunta is 10 times more beautiful than what is on the outside," he had said earlier.

Their age gap and height difference (De Rossi is several inches taller) does not matter to the two people who are very much in love.

Ledesma had said his mother, Conchita Arenas, was 17 and his father, Charlie, was 36 when they got married. His parents were married for 46 years.

The Ledesmas, an old rich Negrense clan, are into the shipping, real estate and sugar plantation businesses. The congressman chairs the powerful House ways and means committee.

Market nervous; peso, stocks tumble

From page A1

He said the weakness of the peso was due to domestic as well as regional factors.

A senior dealer from a local bank said while economic fundamentals did not justify the peso's fall, investors continued to hoard dollars on security concerns.

"The market is scared. Why would you be selling dollars if things are exploding left and right?" the dealer asked.

"The reason why these blasts have substantial impact is because they happened one after the other. The Bali incident was bad, and Zamboanga is not helping any. The market's already nervous, and this is not going to help the peso or improve sentiment," he added.

"The market is being affected by weaker regionals and a knee-jerk reaction to domestic developments yesterday," Tetangco told reporters.

"We are monitoring market movements. We have a flexible exchange rate policy, but we will take measures if necessary to maintain orderly market conditions."

The local currency opened at 53 flat and closed at its lowest level for the day, the Bankers Association of the Philippines said. It had closed at 52.98 to a dollar on Thursday.

Dealers said they had not spotted the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas selling dollars to prop up the peso, but that it had checked rates with local banks.

"No one wants to be caught at the short end of the stick, so banks bought dollars to lengthen their position. We have to be on the safe side," said a treasury official.

The peso, already pressured by rising corporate dollar demand, was pulled down early yesterday as news spread of a grenade explosion in Makati. *(Story on Page A1)*

Heart of financial center

While nobody was hurt in the Makati explosion, analysts said it gave the market a scare because it occurred near the heart of the country's financial center.

Stocks led by property giant Ayala Land Inc. weakened yesterday as the explosion in Makati and several bomb blasts in Mindanao spooked investors, analysts said.

"The market is another victim of the recent spate of bombings. Players are also worried over the country's economic situation," said A&A Securities research head Astro del Castillo.

The main stock index fell 11.91 points to 1,027.67 points, the lowest since Nov. 20, 2001, when the index closed at 1,025.47. The index was down 4.15 percent for the week.

Traders said they expected the peso to recover next week, unless more incidents of terrorism occur.

"If things would not worsen, most believe that the peso would start to rebound next week, given the impending inflows from overseas workers," a trader with a local bank said.

Tetangco said the central bank was expecting $8 billion in inflow from the country's more than 5 million overseas workers by year's end.

"By December, there would be more inflow for the Christmas spending," he said. *With a report from Reuters*

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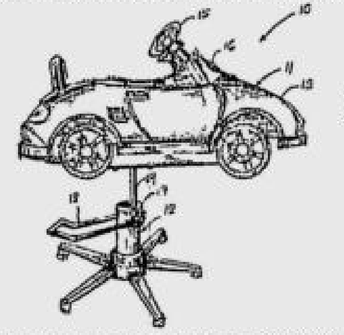

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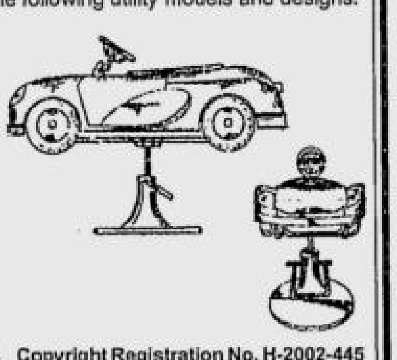

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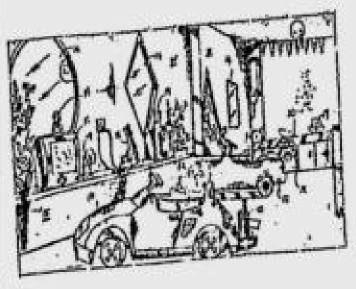

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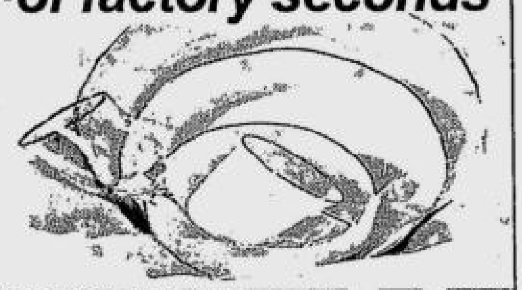

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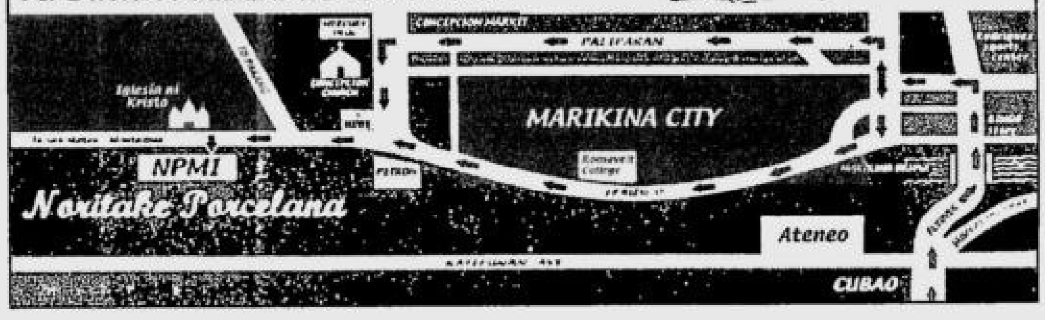

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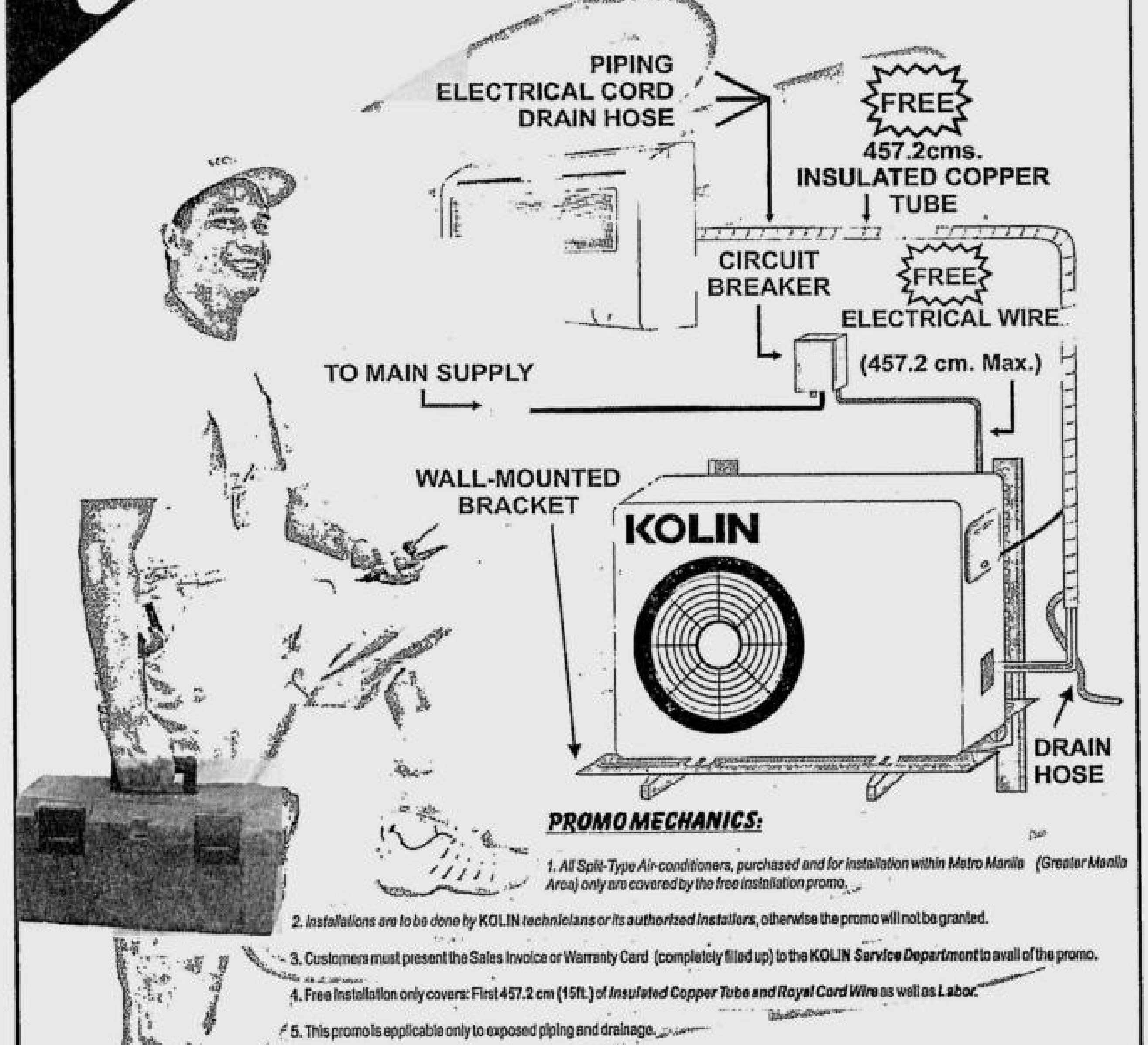

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Bombs and economics

EDITORIAL

TERRORIST bombs exploded in Bali, Indonesia and Zamboanga City at the wrong time. They battered Indonesia's $54-billion tourism industry, which accounts for 5 percent of its economy. In the Philippines, the series of bombings in Mindanao, for which the authorities blame the Abu Sayyaf, struck at a time when the Gross Domestic Product for the third quarter had slowed to 3.9 percent from 4.5 percent for the second quarter.

The Bali bombing is a blow to the Indonesian economy but the Mindanao bombings have less economic impact because of the large share of tourism in the economy. Indonesian economists say that it will take more than a year for tourism income to recover to pre-bombing levels. The bombings have wider repercussions. They could worsen capital flight and undermine investor confidence.

It is, however, absurd to compare Indonesian tourism with that of the Philippines. Before the bombings in Bali and in Zamboanga, Philippine tourism, as a significant contributor to the economy, was a big joke. Tourism became even a more monstrous joke when Tourism Secretary Dick Gordon surmised that the Bali bombing would bring a windfall to the Philippines. With Bali deserted by tourists, Gordon expects them to shift to the Philippines.

The tourists that Gordon is thinking about must be either foolish or driven by powerful suicidal instincts; for going from Bali to the Philippines, which is at present gripped by the urban terror of kidnapping and terrorist attacks in the South, would be like going from the frying pan to the fire.

Both Indonesia, with its endemic political and ethnic turbulence, and the Philippines are plagued by low investment flow. Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas must have been very optimistic when he said he expected economic growth for the fourth quarter, mainly on the grounds that "growth usually kicks in during the last three months of the year."

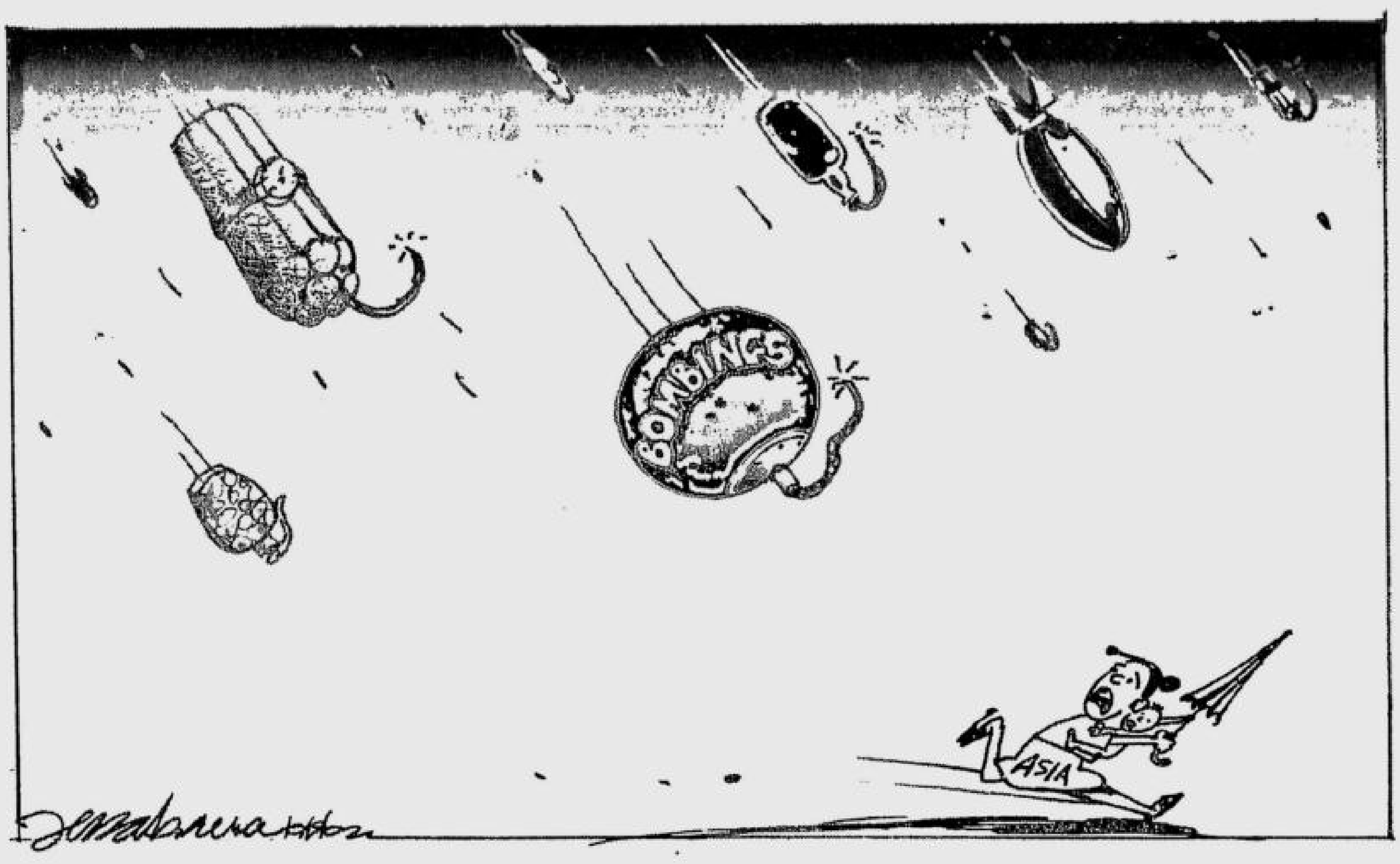
Canlas made his estimate after the wave of bombings, which could shatter economic confidence and increase uncertainty, rather than stimulate the economy. Even the Asian Development Bank's latest Asian Economic Monitor, which forecasts a 4 percent growth this year, might be too optimistic.

The Monitor said "Better than expected growth in the second quarter, the continued strength of exports, and the rise in private consumption underpin this upward revision." Its forecast is close to the government's estimate of 4 percent to 4.5 percent this year. The ADB also noted that despite the global economic slowdown, the Philippine economy remained stable and posted a higher growth rate (4.1 percent during the first half) compared with most Asian economies.

These results were posted, however, before the Iraq crisis and war jitters, and closer to home, the Bali and Mindanao bombings that battered both the rupiah and the peso. These estimates did not factor in the impact of the crisis flowing from the war on terrorism. Iraq and terrorist bombings draw the picture of the globalization of terror that has not spared from its attacks the richest and the poorest economies of the world.

Already, as a consequence of the uncertainties in the Middle East over the US war plans on Iraq, a series of oil price rises have underlined the mounting economic costs of crisis in at least the Philippines. If the bombings in the Philippines escalate and spread to urban population centers, the economic costs of terrorism are certain to rise. They will also fuel political turmoil and emphasize the government's helplessness in coping with terror, as a new form of warfare.

Even in the United States, critics of President George W. Bush's war policy on Iraq have faulted him for focusing his war on terrorism on Iraq. The critics say that in the wake of new terrorist bombings, Bush should scale down his obsession with invading Iraq to disarm it of its weapons of mass destruction and to topple Saddam Hussein's regime, and refocus on the terrorists lurking in the dark. The resurgence of terrorism is hurting the poor economies. They are more vulnerable to attacks than economic targets in the United States.



Ill-Starred Destiny

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

MANY people were annoyed by the cancellation last Tuesday of a number of channels they have been enjoying from Destiny Cable. But their annoyance was not with Destiny. It was with Star Cable, the supplier of the shows that it cut off on Oct. 14.

Destiny contracted for those channels in 1996 on a yearly term that was renewed annually. It complied with all the conditions of the contract, including the prompt and full payment of the stipulated consideration. Last July, however, the original term was reduced to one month and last September to only two weeks. Destiny questioned these changes but was assured everything was all right.

Everything was not all right. On Oct. 3, 2002, Star wrote Destiny that five of its more important channels would no longer be available to it, effective Oct. 14. The withdrawn channels were among the most popular to Destiny viewers, *viz.*, Star Movies International, Star Sports, Star World, ESPN and National Geographic.

With the expected interest of sports fans in the coming World Series and the NFA and NBA seasons in the United States, many Destiny subscribers will have to change cable connections if they want to have direct access to these events. The other alternative is to simply wait for the papers next day for the results of the games.

As for the more widespread following of "Everybody Loves Raymond," "Family Ties," "Frasier," "Cheers," "The Pretender," "Nash Bridges," "JAG" and National Geographic, among many other favorite programs, the cancellation of their channels will make for dull hours to many people who have gotten used to these shows for their daily entertainment.

The stupid *consuelo de bobo* offered by Star is that it will retain for Destiny several other programs, including five channels showing Chinese and Hindi movies. These are for the benefit of the millions of Chinese and Indians who may want to migrate to the Philippines to watch these shows.

Except for citing the renewed term in the September contract, Star has offered no reason for the abrupt withdrawal of the said channels. Destiny is wondering why, despite their long and amiable relationship, Star has not even accorded it the courtesy of a longer notice or a candid explanation of its decision.

There is talk that Star has secretly agreed to give to another cable company exclusive rights to use the channels withdrawn from Destiny. Asked at a press conference to identify the "unseen hand" behind the dubious arrangement, Elena S. Lim, chair of Destiny, simply said, "Who will be the beneficiary? That's your answer."

Destiny has not yielded its fight against what it considers Star's arbitrary and unlawful action. It has referred the matter to the National Telecommunications Commission, which found cause to declare in its letter to Star dated Oct. 10 that:

"The NTC strongly supports the policy of fair play and non-discrimination in the Philippine cable television industry. Applied to this particular case, our position is that a program provider must make their channel offering available to all industry members. Any effort to limit the access of their program to a select few is deemed unfair, discriminatory and promotes monopolistic business practices...

"Therefore, in the interest of public service and for the protection of the Philippine cable television industry, the Commission requests the Star Group...to allow and/or authorize Destiny Cable Inc. to continue carrying Star's programs in the same manner it has treated other CATV service providers under similar circumstances."

Star, however, ignored the request.

The Philippine Cable Television Association is also supporting Destiny. It is asking why Star has deviated from the policy of "non-discrimination in the availability of programs to all cable providers," unanimously adopted by the members of the cable television industry during their meeting in Hong Kong last November. The representative from Star was among them.

My deeper interest in this dispute is the possible violation of Art. XII, Sec. 19 of the Constitution providing that "the State shall prohibit or regulate monopolies when the public interest so requires. No combination in restraint of trade or unfair competition shall be permitted." There is also the suspicion that Star is now a co-owner of that favored cable company in violation of the constitutional rule in Art. XVI, Sec. 11(1) limiting the ownership and management of the mass media to Filipino citizens or to corporations wholly owned and managed by them.

These possibilities require the intervention of the government in what might appear to be only a private commercial disagreement between Destiny and Star. It is not. There are vital legal issues involved in this dispute that must be resolved under the requirements and restrictions of the Constitution.

Come to think of it, is Star, which is a foreign company based in Singapore, paying income taxes on the tremendous dollar revenue it earns from its business operations in the Philippines? That's another matter worth looking into.

Will Tancangco get away with what she's done?

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

LAST Wednesday, the secretariat of the Committee on Justice of the House of Representatives spent the day chasing after the members of the committee (reportedly 62 in all) to find out where they stood on the issue before them: whether the impeachment complaint against Luz Tancangco was sufficient in substance. To do this, the members, as they were located, were asked to sign a form after checking either the "yes" box or the "no" box.

The results of that "referendum" have not been released as of yesterday, and seem to be a closely guarded secret—until next Wednesday, Oct. 23, when each member will be asked to explain his or her vote. In contrast, in the referendum on the impeachment complaint's sufficiency in form, the results, although also not officially released, were immediately known to everybody.

I may be too suspicious or too cynical, but this secrecy, and the delay in announcing the results, methinks, bodes ill for the good guys. Given the rules on impeachment proceedings, it can only mean that the vote was a "no"—i.e., that the complaint was not sufficient in substance.

What leads me to think this? Simply because, according to the rules, a "yes" vote would automatically lead to the conduct of a formal investigation of the charges alleged in the complaint. No explanations are needed for a "yes," since they are spelled out explicitly in the rules, no formal committee report is required.

A "no" vote from the majority of the committee is another matter altogether. It requires a committee report that shall "recommend the dismissal thereof... that shall also contain the grounds on which the committee based its finding that the complaint is not sufficient in substance." Which in turn requires more time so that the members can think up of the reasons to justify their "no," write them down, and submit them.

Thus, the conclusion that the more the delay in announcing the results, the more likely that the "no" vote has the upper hand in the committee. Which is really hard to swallow, because as I said in my last column, the issue of whether the impeachment complaint is sufficient in substance appears to be an open and shut case—a no-brainer. The offenses Tancangco are charged with are factually described, they are impeachable, and the evidence presented by the complainant, supported by paper trails figuratively a mile long, constitute reasonable grounds to believe that the offenses have been committed.

As I also mentioned in my last column, Tancangco herself, having jumped the gun and defended herself (even before a formal investigation has been conducted) by pleading "good faith," implicitly admits that wrongdoing was committed.

Unfortunately, like Tancangco, more than a few members of the committee confuse a determination of sufficiency in substance with a formal investigation or with a trial, for heaven's sake. And by ruling that the complaint against her is not sufficient in substance, they in effect want to close the door-to investigating those charges.

Rep. Butz Aquino is a good example. I saw him the other night, and I do not doubt that he is well-intentioned. He told me that as a member of the committee, he voted that the impeachment complaint is insufficient in form (!), and also voted that it is insufficient in substance. But why? I asked. "No evidence," he answered. Just like that. He was not interested, obviously, in finding out why the Supreme Court made a ruling effectively against Tancangco on the VRIS project, or why the COA's findings pointed to negligence or incompetence on her part.

Moreover, Butz was optimistic that the "no" vote would win, based on what he says he heard from the committee secretariat. This is one of the times when I would rather be proved wrong than proved right.

But all is not lost. First, as I said, my reading of the vote situation may be all wrong. It could also be, after all, that the reason the results of the referendum are not out is because neither side has garnered the required majority of 32 votes, either because there are abstentions, or because the votes have not all come in.

Second, even if we lose the battle, i.e. the committee vote goes against impeachment, we can still win the war. That is because the rules also provide that the committee's decision can be overturned by a vote of one-third of all the members of the House of Representatives.

A lot of people will be watching what the Committee on Justice and, ultimately, Congress will do. Why is this case so important? Why can't she be allowed, as some congressmen say, to ride into the sunset when her term ends in February 2004? After all, elections will still be three months away.

The answer: Because, if Tancangco is allowed to get away with what she has done to delay and frustrate the mandate of Congress and the desire of the Filipino people to modernize the election process, we will have little hope of the Commission on Elections ever doing things right. And because the correct and firm action by Congress will be a warning to the appointing power and appointees to constitutional offices that Congress is ready to impose the sanction of impeachment to those who would use the protective mantle of tenure to abuse or misuse the prerogatives of appointment and of high office.

Of prudence and land mine queries

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

ZAMBOANGA City is being bombed by terrorists, causing plenty of death and injury, but it is not getting the international prominence that the Bali blasts are getting. One good reason is that people have become inured to the violence in Zamboanga over the years; whereas this is the first time that the exotic Hindu island in Java, long the top tourist destination in Asia for Westerners, has been visited by terrorist violence. But as the whole world grieves over Bali's international victims, we mourn the terrorism on our shores. Our best way to condole with our countrymen-victims is to try to be as militant as we could in fighting it, so that the terror statistics do not increase.

* * *

Don't I have the right to get rich? asked Dante Ang, the beleaguered personal publicist of President Macapagal-Arroyo. Of course Ang has the right to get rich, but he has to prove he has the funds for it. But even though he has the funds and the connections, it is still poor timing to get into bank acquisition. He has to realize that because of his powerful connections, anything he does will be subjected to scrutiny. Ang was able to hurdle the P20-million acquisition of the Manila Times, but this time he's getting it from all corners for his bank buy. It would have been prudent for him to have stayed away from that deal at this time, when his principal is reaping criticism for many things. The way it turned out, critics of the First Couple are dragging them into the bank deal, which may be unfair.

* * *

The President has been known to ignore unsolicited advice, as demonstrated in the case of AFP Chief of Staff Benjamin Defensor and new Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo. So it's not remote that she would appoint former Cory Executive Secretary Adolf Azcuna to the high court despite stiff opposition from various quarters. But I hope she does not, for the court needs credible people. Azcuna is a likeable fellow, but he does not explain his links to Kokoy Romualdez adequately. His response that he did not know about Kokoy's questionable deals despite the fact that he was his lawyer makes his critics worry even more about his integrity. Besides, prudence dictates that Azcuna withdraw from the race himself, since the high court will be deciding a number of Marcos-Romualdez cases.

* * *

The query from a female foreign correspondent about whether the President is getting enough sex these days was a land mine, any way she answered it. Had GMA ignored it, she would have been labeled a prude. Had she said she's not getting enough sex, people would have said, aha, that's the reason she's so *mataray* these days; she should have more of it. Now that she said she manages to have plenty of sex despite the workload and pressures, Sen. Panfilo Lacson carped, plenty of sex but too little work. But I think Lacson was thinking more of his boss Erap, when he said this. Erap certainly had too much of sex but did too little work as President. Palace insiders recount how Erap would start the rare Cabinet meetings and then leave after 10 minutes or so, letting his executive secretary preside.

* * *

I see nothing wrong in the way GMA responded to that question about sex, and I'm happy that she manages to get plenty of sex despite everything. Theologically the *colegiala* Chief Executive stood on sound ground: the Church does teach that sex is very important in marriage, which is a sacrament instituted by God.

* * *

Three weeks ago, this column was by its lonesome in citing how the recall mechanism has become a Pandora's box of political woes, causing plenty of instability all around. Now I'm glad to note that Senators Loren Legarda and Edgardo Angara have become well aware of the manipulation of the preparatory recall assembly (PRA), the principal instrument resorted to by local politicians in recalling their rivals. The senators' awareness was doubtless heightened by the plight of Antique Gov. Sally Zaldivar-Perez, who is being subjected to recall by the henchmen of her political rival, Rep. Exequiel Javier. Legarda is an Antiqueña while Angara was Perez's longtime boss.

* * *

The senators now see the need to amend the Local Government Code of 1991, which provided the mechanics for recall, and to scrutinize the PRA as a possible instrument for abuse and vendetta. They should keep in mind that a number of Supreme Court justices, led by Chief Justice Hilario Davide, have gone on record themselves against the PRA. The senators should also seriously consider a proposal aired here that recall ought to be allowed only in the second term of office, as this would give the incumbent local official a fighting chance.

* * *

Perez, Catanduanes' Gov. Leandro Verceles and Taguig Mayor Tinga are only three of eight local officials currently facing recall petitions before the Comelec. Over the past 12 years there have been some 56 recall elections held. The executives with pending cases this year, however, may have been saved momentarily, not by the law but by the Comelec's lack of funds. The Comelec says there cannot be any recall election this year as the P1 million allocated by Congress for this purpose has already been used up in the Puerto Princesa recall election (whose winner has not yet been proclaimed pending determination by the Supreme Court of the validity of former Mayor Ed Hagedorn's candidacy, as challenged by incumbent Mayor Dennis Socrates). As is clear, recall not only induces political instability but is also an expensive exercise.

Lawmakers talk population

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

BEIJING—Twenty years ago, parliamentarians from all over Asia met in this city to organize the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development as a means to "generate support and perpetuate cooperation" among Asian parliamentarians on these and related concerns. Among the major proponents of this regional organization was the late Rafael M. Salas, a Filipino and the first executive director of the United Nations Fund for Population (UNFPA).

Beginning Wednesday and up till yesterday, over a hundred parliamentarians from 36 countries in Asia and the Pacific, including the Central and West Asian countries, met in Beijing anew for the AFPPD's 7th General Assembly and 20th anniversary.

The Philippines is one of six member-countries where there is full-time office support for the AFPPD's activities, through the Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD). Leading the Philippine delegation thus, are the co-chairs of the committee: Sen. Rodolfo Biazon and Aurora Rep. Bellaflor Angara-Castillo. Sen. Johnny Flavier also joined the group, having been invited to speak, in his inimitable style of delivery that shook up a drowsy audience, on the Philippine experience in confronting the AIDS crisis, particularly in public information and education efforts and in the passage of affirmative legislation on HIV/AIDS, through RA 8504 or the AIDS Law.

Other members of the delegation are Representatives Neric Acosta, who is the lone Filipino member of the AFPPD Executive Committee, Krisel Lagman-Luistro, Jose Lacson, Emilio Macias and Emmylou Talino Santos. Aside from myself, the others accompanying the delegation are PLCPD executive director Roberto Ador and Johanna Santiago of the PLCPD staff.

* * *

EVEN before the start of the conference proper—on the plane, during the stopover in Xiamen, and on the coaster on the way to the hotel—the senators and congresspersons would launch into discussions on the challenges they confront these days as legislators with interest in and commitment to issues related to population and development, health, the environment and women's rights.

These legislators, and their allies in Congress, are on the forefront of the battle for the passage of HB 4110, also known as the Reproductive Health Care Act. If the legislators and their supporters among family planning organizations, women's groups and the health community are on one side of this pitched battle, on the other are the institutional Church and its minions in church groups, Catholic schools and religious communities.

Angara-Castillo, for instance, has received "hate text" that calls for the "eradication of the Castillo virus." Most signatories of the bill have been summoned by their bishops for a talking-to in front of their constituents. Biazon says he recently received a delegation of *colegialas* from a Catholic institution who presented to him a petition that he drop his support for the Reproductive Health Care Act. "But I took the time to talk to them and explain the bill, pointing out that nowhere in the document is the legalization of abortion mentioned," he recalls. "Before they left, they all asked for copies of the bill and said they would distribute it among their family and friends and explain our side."

* * *

ANGARA-CASTILLO is quick to interject that she doesn't want the public debate over HB 4110 to degenerate into a "war with the Catholic Church." But while she refuses to turn this into a religious "riot," the Church is pulling out all stops and using "emotional blackmail" to force Congress to jettison the bill.

The signatories, especially those who've taken prominent roles in defending and explaining the bill, have received materials supposedly detailing the points of opposition to the legislation, but coming in folders sprinkled with biblical sayings and bearing the images of the Virgin Mary, of Mother Theresa cradling an infant in her arms and the Pope kissing a baby. In Catholic schools, there are posters calling for unity in the fight against HB 4110 and illustrated by grisly photos of the remains of aborted fetuses. Apparently, no tactic is too sleazy, no image too shocking, no lie unworthy of repetition, in this campaign waged by those who would style themselves our moral superiors.

* * *

WHICH is why it must be quite a breather for the legislators to be taking part in a regional meeting where speakers and participants feel no need to pussyfoot around the issues of population and development.

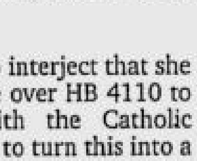
For instance, Peng Peiyun, vice chair of China's National People's Congress standing committee on education, science, culture and public health, declared in her welcome address that as a country "with the biggest population in the world and relatively limited per-capita resources," China "has to persist in putting population control, economizing on resources and environmental protection... while energetically developing the economy, the Chinese government has always made it a basic national policy to control the size of the population, improve its quality and implement the family planning program."

Put quite bluntly, but at least one must give them credit for honesty.

Not like some people we know, national leaders among them, who persist in the myth that untrammeled population growth does not present problems to a people now and in the future. Or who allow the national interest to be compromised by personal beliefs and cowardice in the face of a largely mythical power at the polls, a power really based on intimidation and the ever-reliable threat of hellfire and brimstone.

The Isle of Negros (II)

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY



Bambi L. Harper

THE FACE that stares at you on the frontispiece of his biographical account of his years in the Philippines is very young and unblemished. Rather pale and looking more like a preacher than a soldier, one imagines John R. White, member of the colonial Philippine Constabulary, was one of these zealous young men filled with good intentions. Somewhat like the Peace Corps type, likeable in his innocence, perhaps a tad too smug.

He has been sent to Negros Oriental practically straight from the States to help combat a deteriorating peace and order situation caused by the *babaylanes*. There was outlawry that threatened to stop sugar production. The constabulary was to relieve the regulars and the scouts engaged in the task of fighting bandits. His commander, a major, explains that there were the bands of Dalmacio the Negrito in the forests on the slopes of Mt. Kanleon and "Gobernador" Francisco Abilo. There were about 50 of them and they harassed haciendas between La Castellana and La Carlota and sometimes raided Escalante or San Carlos.

Binalbagan had the richest sugar production in the island in the valley of the Binalbagan River. To the east and west of the valley was the haunt of Papa Isio, the fanatical pope of the mountain folk, the *babaylanes*. He had about 240 men with rifles and his generals were Iping Daco, Iping Diutay and Aguacil Cito.

He arrives in Bacolod to the tune of the vesper bell. From house to house buzzes the hum of evening prayer, and through the low windows of the poorer dwellings or nipa shacks, lighted candles are seen or wicks floating in cups of coco oil faintly illuminating pictures of the saints or images of the Virgin before which women made their evening orations.

From a corner store sounded the click of billiard balls while around little tables sat the *"distinguidos"* of the town, sipping their aperitifs of gin or beer. There were army officers, Filipino and American provincial officials, a Spaniard or two and other Filipinos who were later identified as prominent lawyers and merchants. Tied to posts were stocky ponies, flanks still wet with sweat of the gallop from nearby haciendas.

He meets his commanding officer who introduces him to his "contingent." Filipino soldiers, whether under Americans at the turn of the century or present-day Filipino commanders, appear to be in the same fix. White's men were wearing different grades and colors of shirts made of *canamo* (linen cloth), had no leggings, some had shoes while others were barefoot. (Soldiers during the Marcos era were rumored to be provided with shoes that fell apart after three months. I haven't heard if they're doing any better these days). There was also a variety of hat shapes mostly woven of straw. Even then, the bandits were outfitted with "high-powered modern rifles" while his men were armed with single barrel Remington shotguns that were "frightfully ineffective." White thought his unit looked like the soldiers of a Central American republic. They even carried cooking utensils dangling from their shoulders or belts together with their bolos which presume they had to scrounge around for their food as well.

Luckily for him he is immediately immersed in the local culture. To celebrate the arrival of Governor-General Taft in March 1902, there was a *baile* that evening which he claims was as much a part of the Negrenses life as "expeditions against the babaylanes." The people delighted in dancing. Rarely a week passed that a baptism or a birthday didn't offer an excuse to get together a few guitars or a pretentious orchestra, clear the floor of some house and lead a maze of waltzes, polkas and rigodons.

The long sala of the provincial building was brilliantly lighted "with all the oil lamps of the town; palms and colored lanterns adorned stairs and approaches. On chairs around the sala the Filipina *mestizo*, belles of northern Negros, their glossy black tresses wet with buds of ylang-ylang, gardenias, gumamelas and other heavy-scented flowers. Even by American standards the girls of Negros were indisputably pretty; many would not have been out of place in southern Europe; while a dash of Chinese blood in some faces with the heightened cheek-bones and slightly slanting eyes that looked so well above the sheltering fan gave further piquancy of expression."

The massive governor-general with presidential aspirations just whispering in his brain, stood in line with the Filipino governor of the province, commissioners and other minor officials, including his own Major Orwig of the constabulary as part of the reception committee.

The reception opened with a rigodon, a stately Spanish square dance that "seems in some way to typify the social intercourse of people as the two-step of those days." He wryly observes the 300-pound American governor-general lead off the dance with the 90-pound wife of the Filipino governor. Soon White learns the valse "that was merely a waltz in quicker time" and the polka, a jerky two-step that recalled the square dances of his boyhood.

In little more than three hours White is awakened to lead his motley crew against what he feels is a formidable enemy who darts in and out of the dense vegetation of Kanglaon to attack and quickly disappear into the shadows. His horse, we are told, is a tiny pony that has White's feet dangling a foot away from the ground.

Raquel, Racquel

YOUNG BLOOD

Rose George

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

FIVE years ago, I was drinking iced tea in our quiet living room when I heard a car stop in front of our gate. I peeped from the window. Tito Mari unloaded the baggage from the compartment of the cab. His four kids were a bit hesitant to come out of the cab.

The face I recognized quickly was Raquel's, the eldest, who was then 12. The girl stepped out wearing her pink plaid jumper. A rush of excitement flowed within me, so I hurriedly went out to welcome them. I embraced Raquel, but she held back since she's a shy girl.

I noticed some changes in her—her curly black hair tinged with golden brown was already long. It was no longer like the Sto. Niño's, except for her perfectly curled lashes. Her body seems very fragile, too. But to my surprise, on her first few days of coming back home, that same fragile-looking body could wash more than 100 pieces of clothes, clean the backyard in a flash and cook rice using chopped wood in an instant!

After so many times of reaching out to the kids, I learned from Raquel that she and her siblings did not know that we are cousins. (That hurt.) Her mother took them away from Tito Mari when she was 6 and brought them to Capiz. Raquel said that she never heard my name from her mother. She could also hardly remember her childhood experience in our Las Piñas home. Flashbacks—she had lots of them, like her hula Tiny Bubbles dance on stage, her playing *"dampa"* (a rubber band game) with Jocar and Jay-Jay, her playmates who are now on the "lookout" for her, and the time her mother, for reasons unknown to her, tied her to our gatepost.

Our lives changed when Tito Mari's children moved back to our home. And I should admit that I couldn't help but get irritated at how the loud Ilonggo-speaking kids would trade unpleasant words and fight. I blamed them so many times when I did not get high scores in my quizzes and exams in college. Worse, I no longer accepted visitors because the living room had turned into a complete mess!

My mother advised me to make the necessary adjustments—catch up on studying while they were in school, control my temper when my favorite juice drink unexpectedly ran out for the nth time and a lot, lot more.

Time flew and before I knew it, I was already playing volleyball with my teen-aged cousins. They were the ones who introduced me to new artists they idolized whenever we watch MTV. My blouses fit Raquel already and I had fun dressing her up whenever she came to hear Mass with me or attend her school parties. She courteously thanked me every time I did that for her, especially when I let her borrow my pink blouse.

Raquel is a very pretty girl and seeing her grow into an adorable lady scared me. She studies in a public school where security isn't so good. One time, she told me that one 18-year-old boy kept following her around, so I pushed my brother to fetch her every day from school. Sounds like I'm over-reacting? Not really.

I know that she had been through a lot of fears since she was a child and seeing her now enjoying life and facing all its challenges makes me admire her, that's why I want to keep her that way. Tito Mari is not a good provider, or a housekeeper. The kids usually go to school without breakfast. It might be because there's no food in the fridge or Tito Mari could not stand up due to his nightly hangover. My mom sometimes helps, but when she already had a job, Raquel managed to take care of her two sisters and brother.

When she had too many school projects, she assigned them to alternately wash the clothes and dishes while she prepared their meal. Most of the time, she did all the chores herself. She had been doing this since she was 12.

Now, she's 16, and I guess, she's tired of being *"ate at nanay."* What I like about her is that she learned how to fight for what is really hers—her freedom to enjoy her teenage life without disregarding her duties to her family. When she joined the COCC training in her junior year, none of us agreed. She juggled everything to meet the demands of the training. Her persistence earned her a three-circle silver pin as a captain among this year's batch of CAT cadets in her school.

I took a closer look at the entire picture and I found myself just a mere observer in her life. Yes, I helped her sometimes—I bought some of her workbooks, paid for her field trip and found a nice evening gown for her prom. I realized those were not enough.

So, I began to talk to her most of the time, especially now that I resigned from my job. I told her some of my secrets. We giggled together as we exchanged jokes while drinking iced tea. It is very fulfilling whenever she knocks at my room and narrates her funny or disgusting experiences of the day.

Still, after listening to her stories, a bit of pain surges up within me. I could not forget what I read on the back of her notebook when I helped her do her assignments—she's asking God to release her of her feelings for a lesbian, to see her parents reconcile, to be able to finish her studies and find a nice job so she could help her family.

One funny thing that both of us discovered lately is that her name which we used to spell as "Raquel" should actually be spelled "Racquel." We found it on her birth certificate as we prepared for her application at the PMA. This is not a surprise for me. I just smiled and told her to use the proper spelling of her name. Checking back after a week, she said, "*Minsan, 'yung dating* spelling *pa rin ang ginagamit ko, pero nasasanay na rin ako*, Ate Rose."

Rose George, 23, aspires to be a freelance writer and a church worker. She was a researcher and production assistant at GMA-7, a part time Mass Comm instructress, an advertising assistant and a feature writer in a national broadsheet.

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Checking the facts in Garchitorena's backlog

THIS refers to Victor L. Badillo's letter (PDI, 10/14/02) about "Garchitorena's backlog of cases." Badillo is right to ask that question as others may. Badillo, unfortunately, is a victim of misinformation, as have been many others, undoubtedly because of either careless and splashy reporting, and because of opinion writers, some award-winning and others, who ought to know better because of their own previous experiences, who have held forth without checking the facts.

The facts: The Supreme Court's resolution of Nov. 28, 2001 where I was seriously reproved by the Supreme Court stated the status of cases in my division:

"Summary Tally

Cases assigned for Garchitorena PJ—9

Cases assigned to ( )—42

Cases assigned to ( )—5

Undistributed—73"

P. 21, Decision

I have deliberately deleted the names of the two other justices in my division (one of whom has recently retired) in order not to create unnecessary embarrassments in more than one direction. After all, the issue is me and my backlog, not any other justices' backlog.

I was charged principally for not having distributed the 73 cases for which I was fined P20,000 and required to resolve all those undistributed cases. I paid the fine without argument because the fact was that I did not distribute them. I sought reconsideration, however, for the order for me to resolve all the other cases because I stated that I had not distributed them earlier because somebody had not touched his 42 cases for a long time and I could not pass on the other cases to him. (I had passed on cases to the other justice which is why he had five cases to his name—they were not a backlog).

The Supreme Court did not see it my way and denied my motion for reconsideration. I worked on the decisions and on other matters pending before me even before Nov. 28, 2001. As of the end of May 2001, I had decided 17 cases and resolved 19 of other pending matters. I was subsequently reproved for attending to other matters other than the cases mentioned in the resolution of Nov. 28, 2001.

In the meantime, in June of 2002, I was sent to Japan as part of a delegation of 15 members of the judiciary for a three-week study on case-flow management.

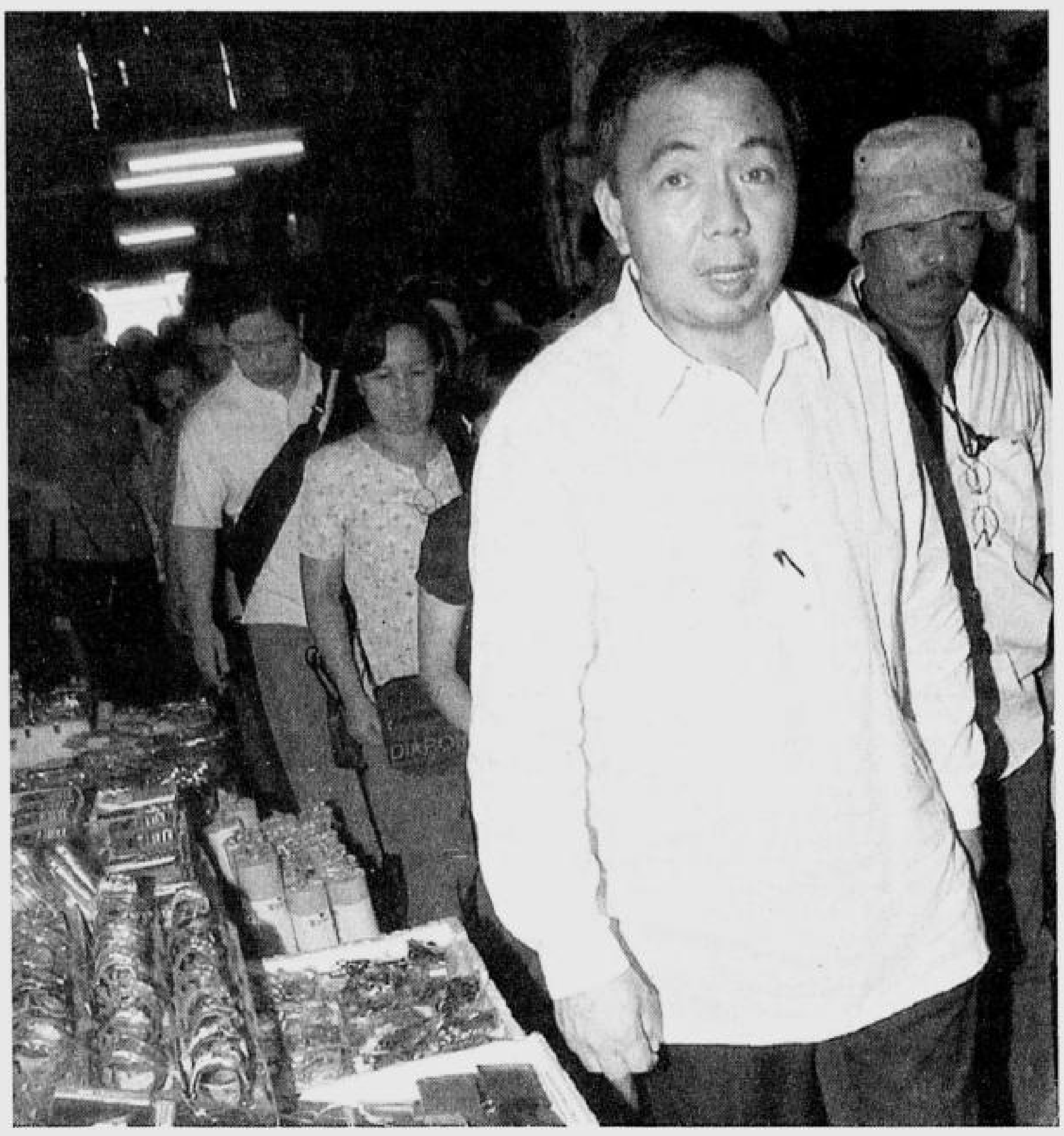
By its resolution of Aug. 13, 2002 the Supreme Court restated the original number of unresolved cases from 73 to 35 cases (P. 6 of the resolution), and the Supreme Court fixed an inextendible deadline to Sept. 30, 2002 for all of the other unresolved cases.

Since my return from Japan, I had completed decisions in eight other cases which, however, could not be promulgated because the third member of my division had gone on terminal leave so that he could not sign the decisions I had completed.

It was obvious that I could not comply with the deadline fixed by the Supreme Court. I felt that what was left for me to do was to resign and retire. The Supreme Court granted my application for retirement effective Sept. 27, 2002.

Contrary to what one opinion writer had written, I did not have a backlog of 400 cases. Here is an example of the damage done by people with pen in hand who write, or with microphones in front of them who speak and pontificate without checking the facts. They destroy reputations and misinform the public. Badillo is one of their victims.

—FRANCIS E. GARCHITORENA,
75 Panay Ave., Quezon City



Why Fernando can't be GMA's running mate

IN THE FORUM of Kilosbayan last Oct. 11, MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando, in his speech and in his answers to questions asked later, explained his straight-forward and commonsense approach to the application of the law that has transformed Marikina into the best administered city in Metro Manila. If there are laws, these must be applied with an iron will. He also applies a fundamental fact of human psychology that people would adapt and crave for an environment that they have been accustomed to. If anarchy is the order in their community, people will take this in stride and compound the situation by their own infractions of the law. If one street is strewn with garbage, why would one bother to keep his front yard spic and span?

When he was mayor in Marikina for nine years, Fernando added nothing to the arsenal of weapons for effective governance except an iron will. He started with removing the visible vestige of anarchy in the occupation of the sidewalks by illegal vendors, and enforcing the laws that protect the community's well being and good health. He got the unqualified support of his constituents and now Marikina is the proud model of a well-governed city that could be the example for the transformation of the other neighboring cities into civilized communities.

Not mentioned in Fernando's speech nor raised in the questions asked was the fact that graft and corruption among officials in all levels in the Marikina local government is not tolerated. Fernando could not have been given the first name he bears without his father's intending to raise him by a strict code of conduct and discipline that would justify such an audacious choice of name. Fernando walks the moral high ground in his turf and his moves are acclaimed by his constituents of 500,000.

Now, he would apply his "tried and tested" method in Metro Manila of over 10 million citizens. Metro Manila mayors have taken the cue from him and have pursued their own version of evicting sidewalk vendors. The questions that would come to mind are: Is city hall graft free? Are the employees at all levels of the city bureaucracy doing their work efficiently? Are influence peddlers and fixers banned from the city hall premises? Are the businesses and industries in its jurisdiction paying taxes honestly? Are there no tax evaders among its influential and prominent residents? If these questions cannot be answered in the affirmative, it would be most embarrassing for the city authorities and Fernando to go after the least of their erring constituencies with the zeal of inquisitors.

Because of the popular endorsement of Fernando for his campaign against sidewalk vendors, he is regarded as a potential running mate as vice president to President Macapagal-Arroyo. That would be a disastrous move for the President's camp to make because it would highlight the glaring contrast in Fernando's success in subduing the lowly anarchist of the streets against the utter indifference of the national government to the thieves that infest the high offices of the executive bureaucracy, the legislature and the judiciary, let alone the well-connected and influential sectors of commerce and industry who cheat on their taxes and flout the labor laws. Fernando may be successful in "gassing"-out from the streets the shabbily clothed sidewalk vendors; but this feat will not sit well with the appearance of the impeccably dressed retinue with their own brand of misdeeds and downright crimes who will share seats of honor with the President in campaign sorties and ribbon cutting ceremonies she graces. Ms Macapagal may not cash in on Fernando's success until she weeds out the corrupt in the highest echelons of her administration.

—EP DAKANAY JR.,
43 Baltazar St.,
Philamlife Village,
Pamplona, Las Piñas City

Fighting the right war, rightly?

THE OCT. 14 editorial of the INQUIRER titled "The wrong war" tends to create the unfounded impression that the government is waging "the wrong war" in dealing with communist rebels.

To stress its points, the editorial raised a number of issues which are speculative, if not inaccurate, in nature. These issues, together with our rejoinder, are as follows:

1. That the adoption of a hardline policy against the communist rebels, which the Macapagal administration is allegedly prepared to do now, is "counter-productive at best, catastrophic at worst."

The issue is speculative. Nevertheless, I still believe that in the face of the depredations and other forms of terroristic activities of the communist insurgents, the government has no other option but to use the police power of the state to protect itself and the people against lawless elements, those who defy government authority. But this is not pure punitive military measure alone. In dealing with the communist insurgents, the government policy must remain all-out force to those who continuously defy government authority. But over and above this policy, the government must remain committed to address the social, economic and political roots of insurgency through an "integrated, comprehensive, multi-disciplinary and multi-dimensional" solution to the problem. These are not merely empty "noises" that your editorial seemed to imply.

2. That the government's drive against the communist rebels must have been inspired by its successful campaign against the MILF in 2000.

Nothing could be farther from the truth. The conduct of military operations is dictated by numerous factors, the most important among which are weather and terrain, disposition of enemy forces, their strength and armaments, and their strategic and tactical doctrines.

In 2000, the MILF forces, deployed in widely scattered camps in central Mindanao, confidently resorted to conventional and positional warfare. It was a costly tactical blunder committed by the MILF which must have underestimated that the AFP strikes were tailor-made for that kind of warfare.

In the case of the CPP/NPA, the AFP is always aware that the communist insurgents are employing a different kind of warfare—guerrilla warfare—which is fought in the military, social, economic and political arenas, and which tries to involve all segments of the population, including women and children, the old and the infirm, workers, peasants, fishermen, students, professionals, etc. Parts of its guerrilla operations are destruction of key installations, power lines, transportation and communications facilities, extortion and plain murder of defenseless civilians and non-combatant military and police personnel, and other terroristic activities, most of which deprive the people of their sources of livelihood.

Thus, in countering the CPP/NPA menace, the AFP employs a different kind of approach—the counter-guerilla warfare whose details cannot be discussed here.

3. That I may tell the President that the country will be better off waging war against the insurgents than pursuing off and on peace talks.

I am not opposed to peace talks with the CPP/NPA. But such negotiations, to be fruitful, must be premised on mutual trust and confidence, on a sincere desire to restore just and meaningful peace in the country. The insurgents must cease and desist from committing intimidation, atrocities and other forms of terrorist activities during the peace talks, nor take advantage of the opportunity to recruit, regroup or consolidate scattered forces. These are the most important prerequisites that must be considered in searching for a meaningful political solution to the communist insurgency problem.

—ANGELO T. REYES,
secretary, Department of
National Defense, Camp
Aguinaldo, Quezon City

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Why there are no PPA charges for Omeco clients

THIS has reference to a letter of Rodolfo A. Plopinio, titled "No PPA reduction in Mindoro?" (Letters, 10/3/02) Plopinio wished to be clarified on the National Power Corp.'s (NPC) implementation of the cap on the purchased power cost adjustment (PPCA).

The PPCA is charged by the NPC for the recovery of cost changes associated with previously approved purchased power contracts that the NPC entered into with other power generation companies. Since the Occidental Mindoro Electric Cooperative (Omeco) does not use power sourced by the NPC through such purchased power contracts, but through the NPC-SPUG (small power utilities group), Omeco is not charged the PPCA. Such being the case, the PPA charged by Omeco does not include the PPCA. Effectively, the pegging of the PPCA at P0.40/kWh will not affect or benefit those customers who are not charged with the PPCA.

The increase in the electricity bill of Plopinio is due to the NPC-SPUG of the unbilled portion of the fuel cost adjustment (FCA) covering the period May 2001 to March 2002. The FCA captures any movement in the prices of fuel purchased by the NPC for the generation of its power. The Energy Regulatory Commission has already met with the representatives from the NPC-SPUG and has required them to submit to the commission all data supporting such collection. The increase is also partly due to the continuing devaluation of the Philippine currency with respect to the US dollar.

Moreover, the unbundled rates application of the NPC-SPUG rates is yet to be decided by the ERC.

Finally, it should be emphasized that there has been a regulatory policy or scheme to have the PPA reduction in Meralco's service area or any other service area shouldered by the small island grids.

We hope to have clarified the issues raised by your letter sender.

—LETICIA V. IBAY, acting chair, Energy Regulatory Commission, Pacific Center Bldg., San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Howard: More attacks loom in Asia

KUTA, Indonesia—Australian Prime Minister John Howard warned here Friday that more terrorist attacks are likely after the bomb massacre in Bali and further deadly bombings in the Philippines.

Suspects in both bombings include groups that may have links to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida, but authorities have not made public any speculation that the bombings were related.

Australian officials said Thursday they had "disturbing new information" indicating additional terrorist threats against Westerners and Western interests in Indonesia and urged Australians there to consider leaving.

They warned of increased risks of terrorist activity in nine other Southeast Asian nations: Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, East Timor, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. The danger levels in those countries varied, but all were lower than those posed in Indonesia, they said.

Howard also said Australia had demanded from Indonesia a much tougher response to terrorism in the aftermath of Saturday's attack that left almost 190 people confirmed dead and hundreds injured.

His comment came amid signs Indonesia has already responded to pressure from Australia and the United States, moving against radical Islamic groups and drawing up emergency anti-terrorism powers.

"We have put the view again urgently and strongly to the Indonesian government since last Saturday that a much tougher approach to terrorism must be taken," Howard told reporters. "I am very pleased with the responses since Saturday."

Howard, who arrived here Thursday with other senior Australian politicians for a memorial service with bereaved relatives, said he did not believe Australians were being singled out for attack.

In interviews and in a news conference he warned the situation in the region is now much more dangerous than before and repeated his government's advice against travel to Indonesia.

"I think further terrorist attacks in the region are very likely," he said, representing a general threat of increased terrorist behavior with an anti-Western connotation.

Because Australians were among the most numerous Westerners in Indonesia, he said, it was particularly concerning to Australia.

He said those responsible for Saturday's attack had clearly tried to inflict the maximum injury, chaos, terror and devastation.

"To explode devices like that in an area like that at a time like that in an environment like that shows a very depraved and cruel view of humanity." A grim-faced Howard also visited the blast site in the resort town of Kuta to inspect the extensive destruction.

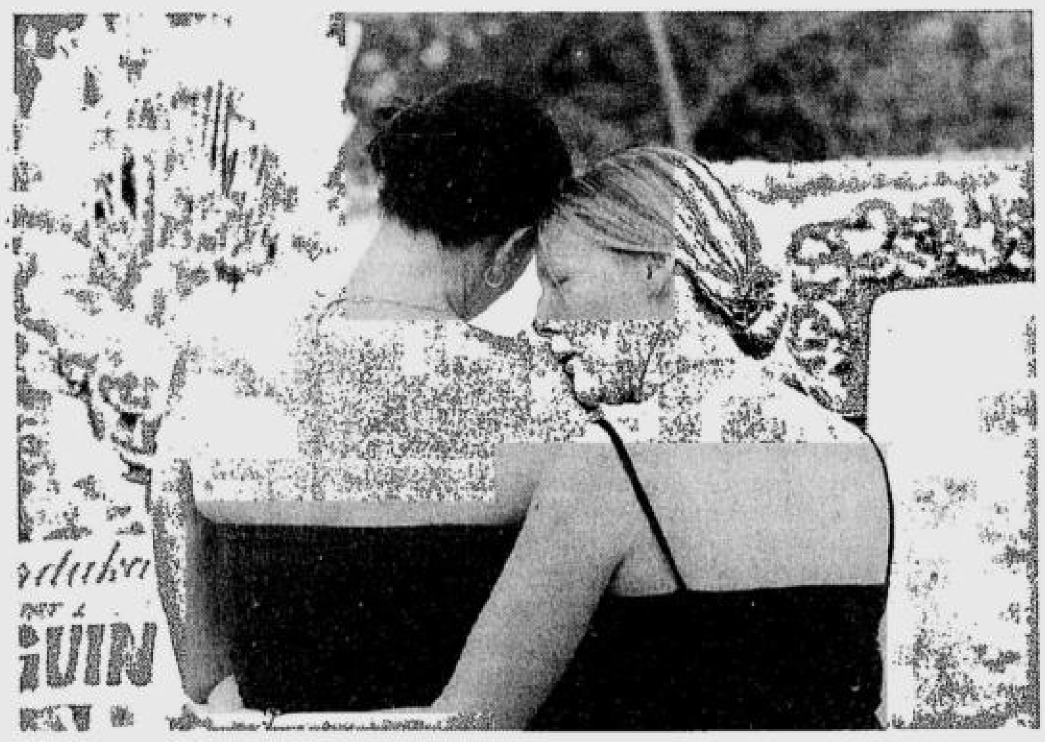
He told reporters he did not accept the view that Australia had been attacked because of its support for the US war on terrorism and campaign to disarm Iraq.

"I reject it and I believe that the view that if you speak softly of evil and say nothing critical of it that you will buy yourself immunity from the reach of terror . . . is disproved by the lessons of history.

"If you think you can buy yourself permanent protection from the reach of terror by not criticizing or attacking evil, then I invite people who hold that view to look at the lessons of history." Australian anger and outrage that the bombing should have happened in such circumstances of innocent fun and pleasure was legitimate, he said.

Only 30 Australians have so far been confirmed dead but he said it was feared the toll would certainly rise.

Two relatives of victims interrupted the news conference to appeal to Howard to speed up the process. *AFP and AP*



RENEEY, an Australian, cries on her sister's shoulder as they mourn the loss of their mother killed in the bombing at a Bali nightclub during a memorial service for the bombing victims Oct. 17, in Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia.

GETTY IMAGES

Anti-terror decree expected

JAKARTA—Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri is widely expected to issue a decree Friday granting sweeping powers to the government to combat terrorism, including arming itself with the death penalty and powers to detain suspects without trial.

Megawati will hold a limited cabinet meeting on Friday afternoon to finalize the decree after which she is expected to sign and proclaim it, officials said.

Abdul Ghani, the director general for laws and regulations, said that the decree might be made retroactive to cover the Bali bomb attack which left more than 180 people dead and hundreds wounded.

"Many want the decree to be applicable to the Bali case, but many others are also against that," he said.

But Ghani gave an assurance that the decree would not be abused despite fears of the return of the dark days under former dictator Suharto when opponents were allegedly killed, tortured or thrown behind bars without trial for long periods.

"There should be no worries that the decree will be a return to the old days, there are a lot of conditionalities imposed, including on detention or arrests," he said, without elaborating on the conditions.

The decree, which the leaders of parliament approved on Thursday, has been rushed through in response to Saturday's Bali bombing, the worst terrorist attack since the September 11, 2001 strikes in the United States.

The Indonesian judicial provisions in principle do not recognize the principle of backdating laws but a precedent was set for several trials on gross human rights violations in East Timor in 1999.

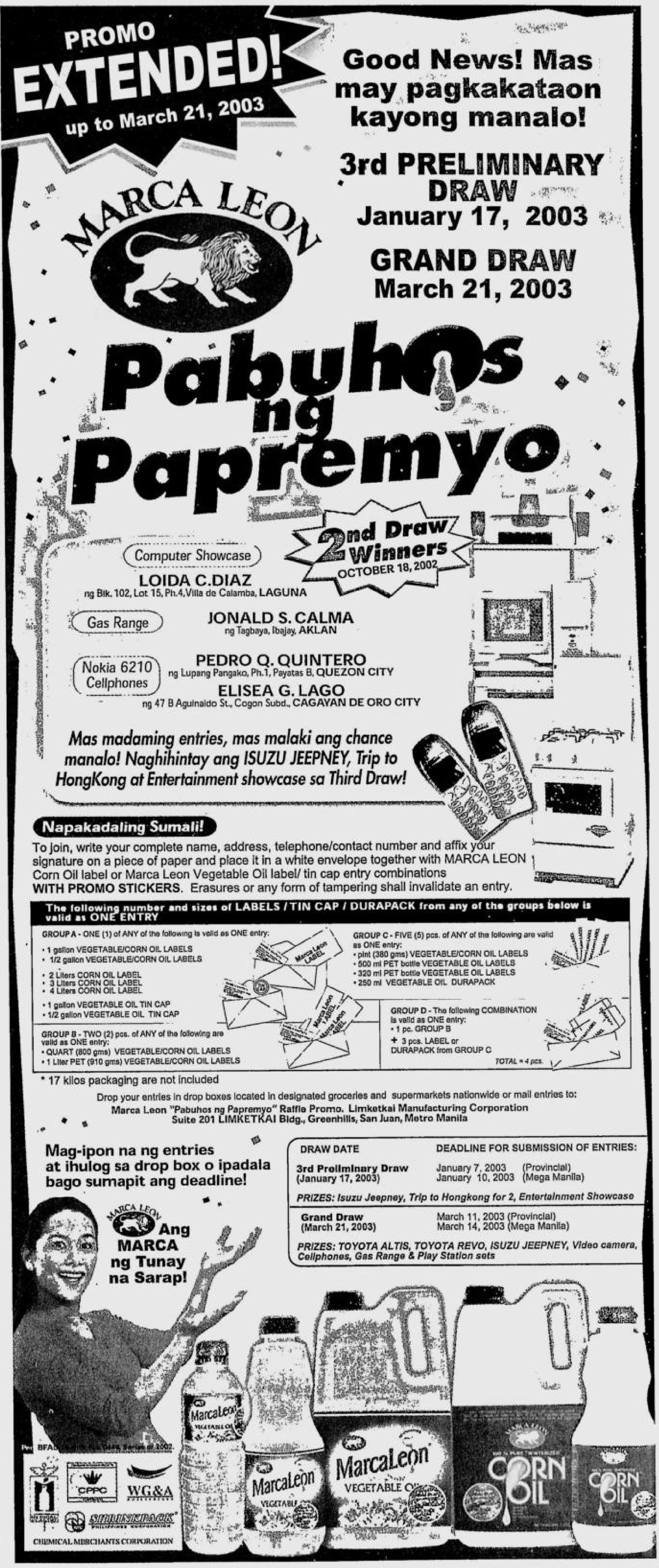
Ghani also said the decree would allow the president to set up an anti-terrorist task force, a "temporary institution" which would have no authority to execute decisions unilaterally.

"It will only be able to issue orders to the Indonesian Armed Forces Commander or the head of the national Police, for example," he said.

He also said the president would decide on the authority supervising the taskforce, adding that it may also be decided on a case by case basis.

Ghani confirmed that the decree would allow the detention without trial of suspects for about one year, but he added, "this has to meet various requirements first."

"Intelligence reports, if used as preliminary evidence to arrest a suspect, will have to first be approved by a court which will hold a closed session to decide whether a report can be used as such evidence," he said. *AFP*



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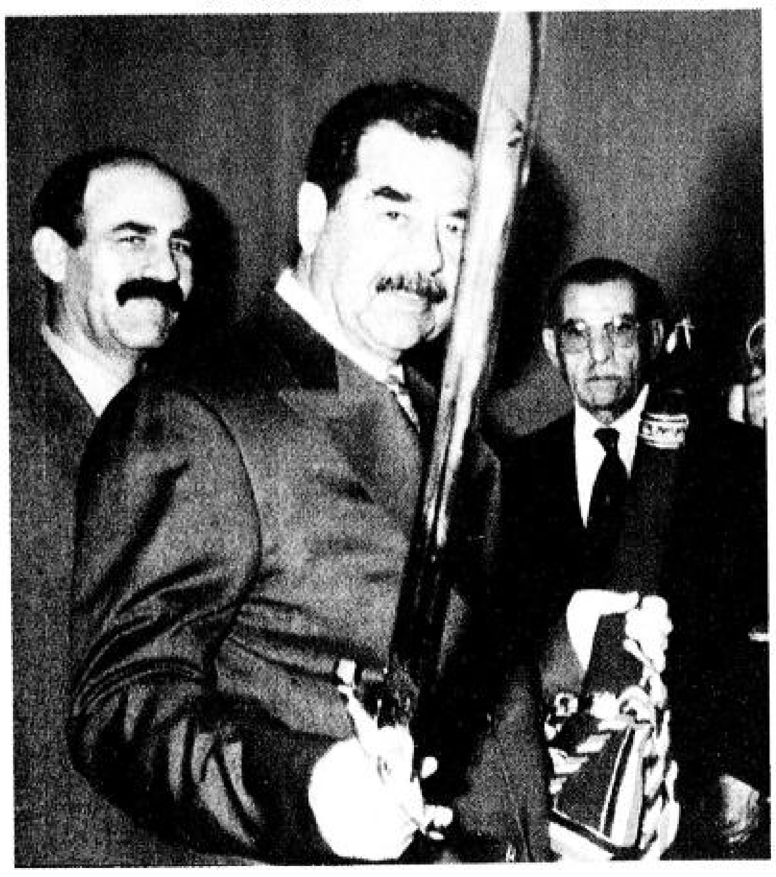

IRAQI President Saddam Hussein shows a sword given to him as a gift before being sworn in as President Oct. 17, in Baghdad, Iraq. AP

US bends on tough Iraq stand

UNITED NATIONS—A compromise over Iraq looked imminent in the deadlocked UN Security Council late Thursday, with Washington about to offer a deal acceptable to council co-members France and Russia.

The deal would enable arms inspectors to start work in Iraq backed with only an implicit threat of force, diplomats said. A likely US draft resolution would set in place a two-stage process, convening the Security Council before any military attack on Iraq.

But if the new proposals were designed to win French and Russian backing, US Secretary of State Colin Powell again made it clear the United States was prepared to act without the council's approval if necessary.

"The United States is now operating behind the authority given to the president by a joint resolution of the Congress last week," he said in New York.

Congress had asked President George W. Bush to seek a solution to the Iraqi problem through the UN, but also has authorized him to act "with like-minded nations, whether the UN is active or not," Powell said.

In Moscow earlier Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov said Powell, his US counterpart, had told him the draft would "take into account the point of view of Russia."

Powell had already made it clear a new UN resolution on Iraq must endorse Washington's right to use force in self-defense.

Congress had also said that "the president has the authority to act . . . with like-minded nations, whether the UN is active or not," Powell said, speaking outside New York's Waldorf Hotel late Thursday.

Russia has so far rejected US proposals for a single, tough resolution calling for the automatic use of force against Iraq if it blocks UN weapons inspectors.

But a new draft, said Ivanov, would "take into account the point of view of Russia, which has been expressed on many occasions recently."

US ambassador John Negroponte said he would offer a draft resolution in the near future with "clear and immediate requirements" for Iraq.

The draft would "address Iraq's material breach of its obligations" under existing resolutions, set new terms for UN arms inspectors and "articulate to Iraq that there will be consequences to noncompliance," he said.

Negroponte did not say what the consequences would be, but noted the US Congress had passed resolutions authorizing President George W. Bush to attack Iraq if necessary.

"The United States hopes that the use of force will not be necessary," he said, but he went on to quote Bush as saying that if Iraq refused to disarm, the United States would lead a coalition to do the job. *AFP*

US spy agency got 9/11 info, says head

WASHINGTON—National Security Agency Director Lt. Gen. Michael Hayden acknowledged on Thursday that the spy agency had picked up information from terrorist suspects that something would happen on Sept. 11, but said it was vague and did not specify an attack.

Hayden, testifying before the Senate and House intelligence committees which are conducting a joint inquiry into spy agency lapses related to Sept. 11, said the information had to be viewed in the context of world events and he mentioned the murder on Sept. 9 of legendary Afghan rebel leader Ahmad Shah Masood.

"In the hours just prior to the attacks, NSA did obtain two pieces of information suggesting that individuals with terrorist connections believed something significant would happen on Sept. 11," Hayden said.

But the information did not specify there would be an attack that day, nor did it contain any details on the time, place or nature of the event, he said.

"You may recall that Sheikh Masood, head of the Northern Alliance, was actually killed the day before," he noted.

The spy agency, which eavesdrops on global communications, picked up messages on Sept. 10, 2001, that said "tomorrow is zero hour" and "the match begins tomorrow," government sources previously said.

"These could have been about Masood," a senior intelligence official recently said on condition of anonymity.

Masood, who was leading Afghan opposition to the then ruling Taliban, was killed in a suicide bomb attack on Sept. 9, 2001, by attackers posing as journalists.

After the Sept. 11, 2001, hijacked plane attacks on America, the two messages were seen as possible missed clues and NSA was criticized for not translating them from Arabic the same day. They were translated on Sept. 11 and distributed to policymakers and other officials on Sept. 12.

One of the biggest setbacks to fighting terrorism occurred in 1998 when media reports of NSA intercepts prompted Osama bin Laden and key lieutenants to stop using a phone, Hayden said. *Reuters*

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Washington sniper hunt suffers evidence blow

WASHINGTON—The hunt for the Washington sniper entered a third week Thursday with US authorities throwing huge manpower and the latest technology into the search but unable to reassure the nervous public.

Having failed to produce a composite photo of a suspect after nine killings from 11 attacks, police said Thursday that a description of a cream-colored van released after the latest shooting was not credible.

Charles Moose, chief of police for Montgomery County, who is coordinating the hunt, said that following "further investigation" the information provided by one witnesses of the van with a broken tail light "is not credible."

"In addition there have been several media reports related to the description of a specific weapon and the suspect. That information, as well, is not reliable," he added, urging the media not to release uncorroborated details.

Police from the states of Maryland and Virginia as well as the city of Washington, are working with federal agencies, representatives of the US Defense Department and the US Secret Service on the case.

The federal Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) bureau has 390 agents in the hunt, there are also inspectors from the US Postal Service, US Marshalls and the US Park Police involved.

The army this week provided surveillance planes to monitor the Washington region. *AFP*

US: Nokor nuke crisis 'sobering'

WASHINGTON—The United States said Thursday it wanted a peaceful and diplomatic solution to its "sobering" nuclear crisis with "axis of evil" foe North Korea, pledging to consult allies Japan and South Korea before deciding its next move.

Top aides to President George W. Bush trod a conspicuously careful path, a day after their startling announcement that the reclusive Stalinist state had confessed to pursuing a secret nuclear weapons program.

"The president believes this is troubling and sobering," spokesperson Scott McClellan said as Bush faced a new foreign policy crisis with his administration already embroiled in an anti-terror battle and preparations for war with Iraq.

"We are addressing this through diplomatic channels. ... We continue to seek a peaceful resolution."

Washington was watching very carefully to see if North Korea satisfied US calls "to abide by its commitments and to eliminate its nuclear programs in a verifiable manner," State Department spokesperson Richard Boucher said.

Bush, campaigning for next month's midterm elections in Georgia and Florida did not address the issue publicly, and officials appeared keen to avoid inflamatory rhetoric.

The US leader has however made no secret of his distaste for North Korea, branding it part of an "axis of evil" with Iran and Iraq—states he fears could pass weapons of mass destruction to terrorists.

Japan and South Korea, which are expecting US envoy James Kelly to arrive for consultations this weekend, earlier put on a calm front, insisting their dialogues with North Korean President Kim Jong-Il would go on.

The US announcement that North Korea had confessed to pursuing a secret nuclear weapons program in violation of international agreements left US officials in a conundrum over their next move with Pyongyang.

McClellan said there were "no plans to hold further talks at this time" with the Stalinist state, following comments by State Department officials on Wednesday that a give-and-take dialogue with Pyongyang was for the moment no longer possible.

North Korean officials admitted they had continued to develop nuclear weapons, in an enriched uranium-based project, in violation of a 1994 agreement, in talks earlier this month with Kelly, Boucher said late Wednesday.

Pyongyang considers the deal—known as the Agreed Framework, under which it agreed to freeze its nuclear program in return for the provision of two atomic power reactors—"nullified," he added.

But officials declined to sign the deal's death warrant, simply noting Pyongyang was in "serious violation" of the pact concluded with the Clinton administration.

Bush aides however made no attempt to play down the North Korean threat, saying they believed Pyongyang still had two plutonium-based nuclear bombs, dating from before the 1994 agreement.

"It is our assessment that North Korea has reprocessed before 1994 sufficient plutonium for one or two nuclear weapons," an administration official said.

When pressed, the official said North Korea had two bombs.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said "I believe they have a small number of nuclear weapons," when pressed about North Korea. *AFP*

Israel tank fire kills 8 in Gaza

GAZA CITY—Israeli tanks killed eight Palestinians, including two children, Thursday when they returned fire at Palestinian militants who launched rockets at them in the southern Gaza Strip town of Rafah, Palestinian and Israeli officials said.

The killings came a day after Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon held talks in Washington with US President George W. Bush, who asked Sharon before his visit to curb the alarming number of Palestinian civilians killed by Israeli forces.

Among the latest dead were a four-year-old girl and a 12-year-old child, two young men and two elderly women, Rafah hospital director Ali Mussa said.

Two bodies were still on the scene of the shooting and could not be evacuated by ambulance, Palestinian officials said.

The injured included a young girl in critical condition and a dozen people listed as seriously hurt, he said.

The Israeli tanks fired three shells at houses and blasted them with heavy machine-gun fire after Palestinian militants fired on Israeli army bulldozers building a wall on the Egyptian border, witnesses said.

Israeli army spokesperson Captain Sharon Feingold said the Israeli force had come under fire from "anti-tank missiles."

"This is another case of Palestinian terrorists using the civilian population to hide behind and conduct terrorist activity," she said.

Israeli Defense Minister Binyamin Ben Eliezer expressed regret over the clash. "We regret that there were any civilian victims and we do everything possible to avoid" such cases, Ben Eliezer told Israeli television.

"As far as I know, three terrorists were killed in an exchange of fire, but I will know exactly what happened in a day or two, after an investigation by the army," he said.

But the Palestinian leadership, in a statement, promptly condemned "this new massacre by Israeli tank shells against a refugee school and houses in Rafah" and called for the international community to intervene and send observers. *AFP*

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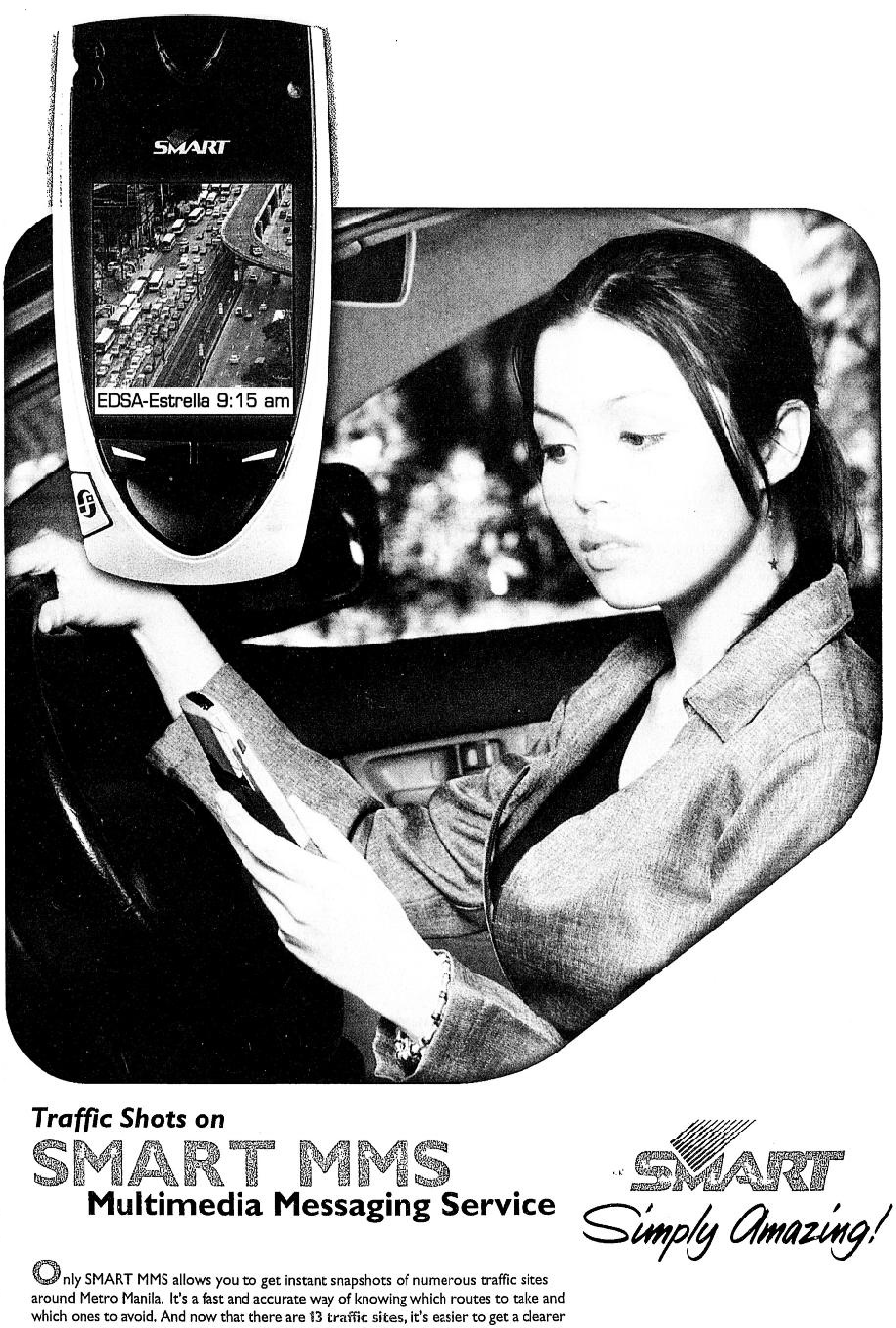

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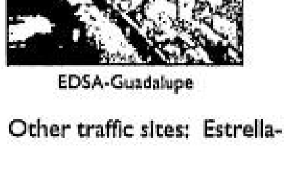
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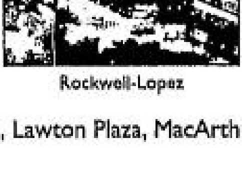
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NIA able to irrigate 800,000 ha after 40 yrs

ARAYAT, Pampanga—Almost 40 years after it was created, the National Irrigation Administration is able to irrigate only 800,000 hectares of farmland throughout the country.

NIA Administrator Jesus Emmanuel Paras said only these areas have functional systems out of at least 1.5 million hectares served by big government-owned irrigation facilities.

Agricultural lands irrigated by the agency had diminished in size over the years because some systems have no water, are heavily silted or are damaged and are in need of repair and rehabilitation, Paras said.

While this situation was already in itself a major challenge, he said the NIA deals with another daunting task: Irrigate a potential area spanning 1.5 million hectares.

The agency, he added, had done a lot of catching up. Generating P7.1 billion this year mostly from foreign-assisted projects, it has upgraded systems servicing a minimum of 80,000 hectares and provided water to 20,000 hectares of new areas.

Bigger budget

That amount was bigger by P1 billion from the P6-billion projected budget yearly since 2001, he said.

More than P5 billion went to big irrigation projects in Nueva Vizcaya, Tarlac, Pampanga, Bohol and Agusan. Japan is still the single biggest source of loans for NIA's projects, he said.

The NIA has restored the payments of irrigation fees to draw revenues. With its budget reduced during the Estrada administration, the agency grappled with dwindling income and the salaries of its employees were delayed by months.

The irrigation fee is equivalent to 150 cavans of palay during the dry season and 100 cavans during the wet season.

What's left of the fund is, however, limited for the agency considered as the direct partners of farmers.

"However, as we put in new systems or rehabilitate old systems, other facilities also deteriorate. Basically, there's some balancing out. But with the budget we have right now, it still isn't enough to really and fully develop the systems and hit our potential areas," Paras said.

Priority

Smaller communal irrigation systems supposed to be managed by local governments have also been a priority.

"The problem we have right now is that local governments do not have the funds to maintain and rehabilitate these systems," Paras said.

On the other hand, he said the transfer of management of national irrigation systems to irrigators' associations, a program under the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act, is now in its pilot stage.

Manuel Collado, Central Luzon NIA director, said at least 140,000 hectares of farmland need the services of NIA.

To date, national irrigation systems in the rice-producing region serve only 36,000 hectares during the dry season and an additional 2,000 hectares during the wet season. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

ANGELES CITY RAID

Marcos 'son' yields fake US bonds

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Officials of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas certified that the United States Federal Reserve bonds, treasury notes and certificates of deposits seized from a man who introduced himself as a son of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos were fake.

Supt. Christopher Laxa, chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in Central Luzon, said CIDG agents and BSP officials on Thursday found plastic foams, a plastic bag and several fake documents inside the six metal boxes recovered from Demetrio Garcia, who had claimed to be Marcos' son.

The six metal boxes had markings "Seal of Federal Reserve, United States of America." Garcia's lawyer declared the contents of the boxes to be worth at least a trillion dollars.

On seeing plenty of foam inside the boxes, an agent chuckled about seizing coffins instead of a cache of real greenbacks, Laxa said.

"They (CIDG agents) just humored themselves, joking that Garcia and his troves might have come from Ilocoslovakia," he said.

But the joke, he said, was not intended to dishonor the birthplace of Marcos whom Garcia claimed was his father. Garcia, police said, was also using the name "Percival Marcos" in his transactions.

The Marcoses, through a representative, denied Garcia's claims of kinship to the family.

US Embassy officials, to whom the boxes and their contents were initially turned over for authentication, declined to do the task, saying that it was not within their jurisdiction.

Laxa said Garcia's lawyer, a certain Ambassador Benjamin Domingo, agreed that the metal boxes be opened only after a lot of prodding and only before the presence of monetary authorities.

Domingo resisted the plan of the CIDG to open the crates, saying these were covered by confidentiality provisions in bonds held by the redeemer, supposedly Garcia.

The items were seized during a raid on Garcia's house in Angeles City on Tuesday night.

These included a piece of gold bar, a bundle of bill-sized paper with transparent markings of $100 and assorted contracts and certificates of deposits said to have been issued by banks from the United States, Indonesia, Switzerland and Yugoslavia.

With a certificate from the Central Bank attesting that the items were fake, Laxa said his office will file cases of illegal possession and use of false treasury and bank notes against Garcia.

Laxa said Garcia, a native of Lubao, Pampanga, also described himself as an investor. Garcia claimed to have just arrived from Hong Kong where he finished some transactions.

Laxa, in a report to Chief Supt. Eduardo Matillano, CIDG director, said the raid on Garcia's house in Villasol Subdivision in Barangay Anonas in Angeles City also yielded a piece of laminated frame of different certificates of US Federal Reserve bonds.

Garcia was arrested along with four men identified as Sonny Catolico, Eduardo Bacala, Rolando David and Lorenzo Marin.

Laxa said a certain Boyet de la Cruz, who claimed being a staff member of Pampanga Gov. Manuel Lapid, interceded for Garcia.

But Lapid denied knowing De la Cruz and said his name was being used. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Co-op faces raps over power poles

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—The Air Transportation Office in Eastern Visayas (ATO-8) blamed the Northern Samar Electric Cooperative (North Samelco) for failing to remove electric posts that are on the flight path of airplanes at the Catarman airport.

Three of the posts were toppled when Asian Spirit Flight No. 857 snagged power lines as it was landing at the airport. Two persons were hurt.

Dalisay Muertegui, ATO-8 area manager, said her office has repeatedly asked the North Samelco management to remove the electric posts at the airport.

Muertegui said two bystanders suffered minor injuries.

They were identified as Nicanor Brenzuela, 27, of Barangay Tag-abaka and Leslie Villanueva, 5, of Barangay Molave, Catarman. They were on the tarmac when the plane landed.

The plane landed safely and none of its passengers were hurt.

Houses have also been built at least 10 meters away from the runway in Barangay Dalaquit, Catarman, Northern Samar's capital town.

Muertegui said she could not exactly determine how many electric poles are in the airport compound.

But she said under the Building Code of the Philippines, electric posts should not be more than 45 feet high and should be built not nearer than 3 kilometers from airports.

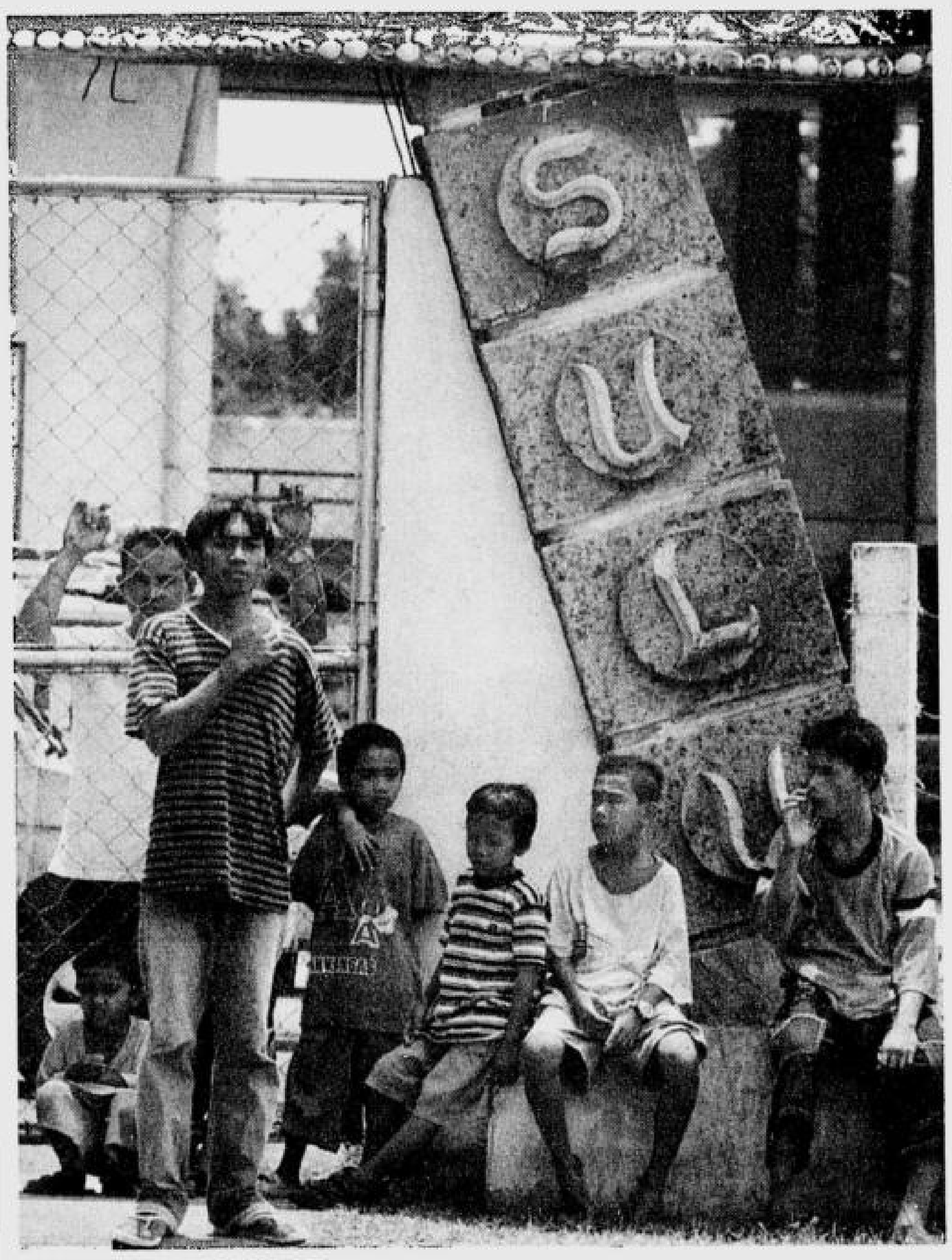
The INQUIRER tried to reach Ricardo Largo, the North Samelco general manager but an employee, who declined to be identified, said Largo left for Manila Thursday.

The employee also said Largo had ordered them not to answer any questions in connection with the accident.

Muertegui said the ATO would file charges against the management of North Samelco.

"But I am not sure yet what particular case the ATO will be filing against them. It will be our central office through our legal division that will initiate the filing of the case," she said.

She said the ATO would demand the removal of North Samelco's high tension wires at the airport. *With a report from Cynthia Borgueta, PDI Visayas Bureau*



IN CONFLICT'S MIDST DENNIS SABANGAN

In Jolo, Sulu civilians such as these boys and men are given no choice but to be spectators in a conflict not of their making. Every day brings new drama and tragedy as government soldiers continue their pursuit of elusive rebels.

Probe of Vizcaya board member in US sought

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—A provincial board member, who has been in the United States for the past nine months, is facing dismissal if found guilty of abandonment of duty or disloyalty by the Department of Interior and Local Government.

In a resolution, the provincial board asked the DILG to rule on the case of Board Member Clemente Bacani, who has not reported for work since January when he left for the US purportedly on official business.

Records of the provincial board's secretariat showed that Bacani has since incurred 37 consecutive absences in the board's regular sessions. Despite the absences, however, he has been allowed to receive his salaries and allowances.

Board Member Leonardo Byron Perez said Bacani's absence has dealt a double whammy on the people, as they have been deprived of representation in the board while he continues to claim compensation.

Perez questioned how Bacani managed to stay more than nine months in the US, when the maximum length of stay given to non-immigrants by the US government is six months.

"If he is not recognized as an immigrant, then he may be staying illegally in the US," a provincial official said.

"There are reliable reports that he is now working there," he added.

The INQUIRER tried but failed to reach Bacani's family members in Bagabag town for comment.

But in a letter to Gov. Rodolfo Agbayani before he left for the US, Bacani asked permission to be considered "on official time" to be able to claim his salaries for the duration of the trip. *Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Collision probed

CEBU CITY—Marine authorities have started investigating the collision of passenger vessel MV Sr. San Jose and cargo ship MV Sea Merchamp at the Mactan Channel off Bantolinao Point on Tuesday. But initial investigation showed that MV Sea Merchamp had no clearance to leave port and was on sea trial when it hit MV Sr. San Jose, which at that time was bound for Ormoc City and stopped in the middle of the channel after it developed engine trouble. All 65 passengers of Sr. San Jose were returned safely to the Cebu port.
Jolene Bulambot, PDI Visayas Bureau

Used pieces of equipment

DUMAGUETE CITY—The City government here wants the Office of the Ombudsman to inspect the controversial heavy equipment purchased by the administration of former mayor Felipe Remollo so it can start using the equipment for various projects. City Legal Officer Neil Ray Lagahit said the city could not use the equipment while the graft case filed by Mayor Agustin Perdices against his predecessor is still pending or while the Ombudsman has not yet inspected the units. Perdices sued Remollo and the members of the city's bids and awards committee shortly after he assumed office last year when it was uncovered that the supposed brand new equipment, a vibratory road roller, a compactor and a payloader, were second-hand units.
Alex Pal, PDI Visayas Bureau

Cops reinstated

TAGBILARAN CITY—The police chief and four policemen in Sagbayan, Bohol who were relieved after serving warrants on a former vice mayor of the town were ordered reinstated by Police Regional Director Rolando Garcia. Reinstated were Insp. Presenciano Mansueto, PO3 Teodulito Ngujo, PO3 Aldon Suaybaguio, PO3 Lucrecio Compasion and PO1 Romelito Zarate. Garcia's order was in response to a municipal council resolution asking the return of the relieved policemen, saying they were relieved because they arrested an ally of Gov. Erico Aumentado. Senior Supt. Sancho Bernales, Bohol police director who had ordered the relief of the four, denied his action was politically motivated. Mayor Jimmy Torrefranca has filed a case of grave misconduct and abuse of authority against Bernales for his controversial relief order. *Chito Fuentes, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Girls rescued

ANGELES CITY—Police rescued 23 girls, all under 15 years old, working in brothels in Barangay Sta. Teresita last week. Senior Supt. Angelito Pacia, city police director, said the rescue operation was launched in reaction to information provided by a minor rescued last month. Law enforcers also reported the arrest of five pimps and three financiers of the brothels in the place known here as "Area." The minors were recruited from Central Luzon and the Visayas, police said.
Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

PMA examinees

BAGUIO CITY—Only 1,073 of 7,520 examinees passed the Philippine Military Academy entrance examination given last month. Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan, PMA superintendent, said successful examinees represented 14.27 percent of the total applicants. Among the successful examinees were 134 females. Adan said the entrance examination is the first in a series of tests that an applicant must pass to earn his or her appointment as a PMA cadet. An applicant must also pass rigid physical and medical examinations and a series of aptitude tests. *PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

GMA backs DAR head

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo expressed continued confidence in Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza, saying she relies on record in keeping her Cabinet members, not on propaganda. "I give my Cabinet members targets. Braganza has been complying with his targets," the President said. "We cannot allow ourselves to be blackmailed if we are going to be a strong republic. They have their targets. Are they complying or not? That's the basic point of evaluation of their performance." DAR employees sued Braganza for allegedly spending P53 million for the CARP anniversary. The Commission on Audit has submitted vouchers showing P7 million was spent for the anniversary rites.

Girl, 3, led to kidnappers by uncle, released

By Gerry T. Pagharion
PDI Visayas Bureau

ROXAS CITY—Two motorcycle-riding kidnappers released unharmed their three-year-old victim on Thursday night after sensing the presence of policemen near the church where the payoff was to take place.

Mariel Kayle Baes was immediately hugged by her mother Ginalyn as soon as she disembarked from a tricycle that brought her to the Roxas City Immaculate Concepcion Cathedral.

Police arrested Neil Edward Deita, the victim's uncle, at an apartment in San Jose Village this city, hours after the kidnapping.

Deita identified his two other companions as Orlando Bayhon, 26 and Roderick Buena, 16, both of Panay town.

Supt. Ildefonso Catedral, city police chief, said Deita admitted that he planned the kidnapping because he needed the money to pay placement fees for a job abroad.

Placement fee

He said he was happy that the girl was unharmed and that the pay off was foiled after the victim's family cooperated with the police.

The victim's father Ariel Tanala took his daughter from the house of her grandmother, Natividad Baes, on Wednesday night.

He then brought her to an apartment in San Jose Village here where Deita, Ariel's first cousin, was staying.

Ariel said he entrusted his daughter to Ariel because he had an important appointment. When he went back at around midnight, he was surprised to learn that his daughter was missing.

At about 3 a.m. on Thursday, Natividad received a call from a man, who later turned out to be Neil, demanding P300,000 in exchange for the release of her granddaughter.

Entrapment

Natividad informed Ginalyn of the call. Ginalyn, who was staying in Tarlac for a while, immediately went home to Roxas City on Thursday morning.

Ginalyn then reported the matter to the Roxas City police. An entrapment operation was then planned.

The payoff was set at the Roxas City Immaculate Concepcion Cathedral.

But Catedral said the two suspects on board a motorcycle released the girl on Fuentes Drive here, about 70 meters from the church, and let her ride a tricycle.

The suspects paid the driver P10 and instructed him to bring the girl to her mother, he said.

After hovering around the church, Catedral said the suspects might have recognized some policemen in plainclothes, prompting them to release the victim.

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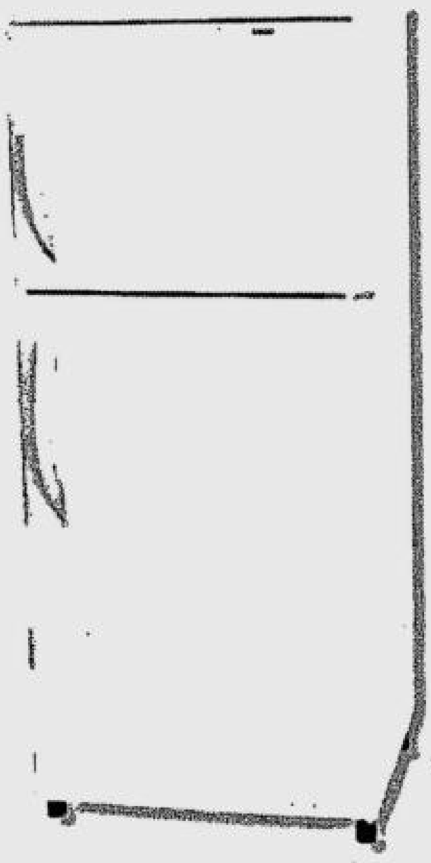

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INQUIRER Visayas
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Leyte wartime tales refuse to die

By Vicente S. Labro
Dulag, Leyte

THEY don't make World War II movies anymore, nor are books about the Japanese occupation and the liberation of the Philippines ever written again. And because of old age, local war veterans now only have hazy recollection of the historic events.

But wartime tales still abound in Leyte, based on stories told and retold earlier by the war veterans themselves. Or from stories culled from the pages of dusty books and magazines on the shelves.

War memorials, which are almost everywhere in the island of Leyte, also keep memories about the war very much alive.

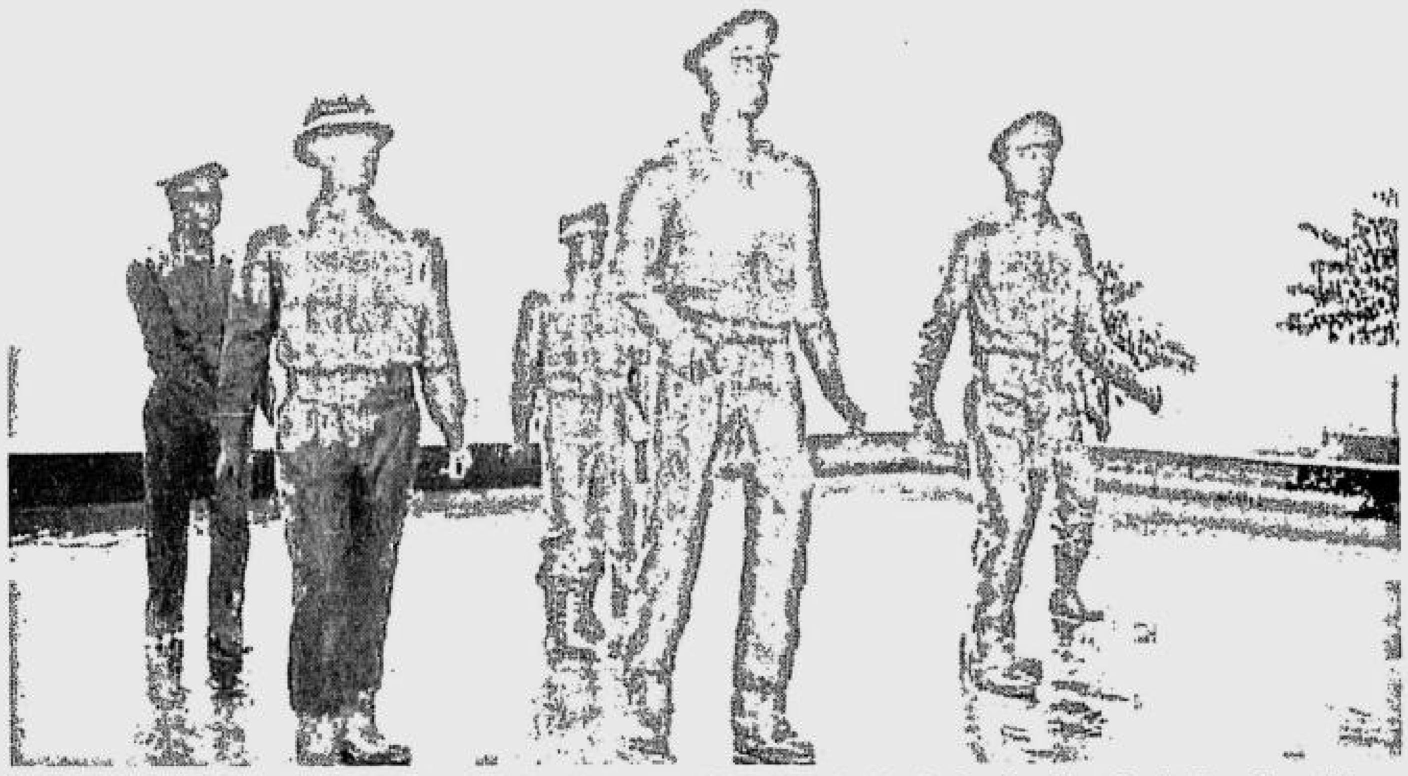
Some places also evoke images of the war like the beaches facing the Leyte Gulf where hundreds of thousands of Allied soldiers landed on Leyte in October 1944. Or that beach in Barangay San Roque, Abuyog town, where the submarine USS Nautilus clandestinely unloaded firearms intended for the local guerrilla forces on July 14, 1944.

Thus, it is not surprising that wartime tales are still very much alive in this island. Leyte was the site of one, if not the biggest aerial, sea and land battles during the Second World War.

On Oct. 20, 1944, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, together with Pres. Sergio Osmeña and Gen. Carlos P. Romulo, set foot on Philippine soil, their first since after they left Corregidor in 1942.

The Allied Liberation Forces led by MacArthur had 650 ships, 1.5 million tons of general equipment, 200,000 tons of ammunition, 235,000 tons of combat vehicles, hundreds of airplanes and some 150,000 fighting men.

Heavy bombings and fighting raged on in Leyte as the Japanese Imperial Army initially resisted the assault of the Allied Forces. Dogfights were also common scenes. It was also during this time that one of the greatest naval battles in history took place.



THE MACARTHUR Shrine, which has bigger-than-life statues of Gen. Douglas MacArthur, President Sergio Osmeña and Gen. Carlos P. Romulo, among others, is one of the many war memorials erected in Leyte. VEN LABRO

Filipino heroes

But the wartime tales here are not only about the liberation. The stories go back as far as the time of the bombing of Pearl Harbor or of the arrival of the Japanese at Pinamopoan in Capoocan on May 25, 1942. Most stories, however, are about the saga of members of the local resistance movement.

Mention World War II and Leyteños will readily tell you stories of the wartime exploits of Kangleon, Balderian, Miranda, Pamanian, Pabilona, Centino, Erfe, Nuque, Francisco, Peters, Nazareno, and Madrio, all (United States Armed Forces in the Far East or USAFFE) officers and non-commissioned officers who formed or joined guerrilla units in Leyte.

In fact, it is said that the guerrillas in Leyte paved the way for the return of General MacArthur to fulfill his "I Shall Return" promise.

Prior to his return to the Philippines, General MacArthur has named Col. Ruperto Kangleon, a former army commander and a graduate of the Philippine Constabulary Academy, as the area commander of Leyte. It was Kangleon's guerrilla units that repeatedly harassed the Japanese occupation forces in Leyte, and sent valuable intelligence information to MacArthur.

With the success of the Leyte guerrillas, the Japanese captured four of Kangleon's children, hoping the guerrilla leader would yield. But Kangleon only said: "Tell the Japanese I will not surrender for love of country." The Japanese eventually released the hostages.

For his war efforts, Kangleon later received the Distinguished Service Cross from the United States of America.

One of Kangleon's field commanders was Maj. Alejandro Balderian, a native of Dagami, Leyte and a law graduate of the University of Manila, who headed the guerrilla group in northern Leyte.

Balderian, who was widely known as "Bungot" because of his foot-long beard, was feared and hated by the Japanese. He personally led his men on a 14-day siege of the Japanese garrison in Burauen town starting on Nov. 4, 1942. They killed 80 Japanese soldiers and 15 puppet constabularies. Then on Nov. 19, 1942, they also attacked the garrison in nearby Dagami town and killed 60 of the enemies.

In retaliation, the Japanese arrested Balderian's parents in Dagami and dragged them around town with their hands tied, until they died. The Japanese eventually beheaded the couple, some witnesses said. Not satisfied, the Japanese also captured Balderian's pregnant wife and kept her hostage in their camp in Tacloban. His wife gave birth to a boy inside the enemy camp but Balderian never saw his son even after his men rescued his wife.

Balderian later received a citation from the US government and medals by the Philippine government for his role during the war.

More tales of heroism

Stories also abound with the heroism and bravery of the other Leyte guerrilla leaders. Wartime tales, however, are not only about the action-packed encounters between resistance fighters and the occupation forces.

There are also tales of women in some places who organized themselves into the women auxiliary service and provided medical care to the wounded male guerrillas and did some chores for them like preparing food and washing their dirty clothes.

Then there are the stories of the American guerrillas in Leyte like Lt. Illiff David "Rich" Richardson, Lt. Joseph St. John and Lt. Junior Grade Gordon Lang. Stranded in the country after the fall of Bataan, they later found themselves with the guerrilla units operating in the southern part of Leyte (now the province of Southern Leyte) and in nearby towns such as Abuyog in the east and Hilongos in the west, among others.

Richardson and Lang each had a guerrilla unit that had several skirmishes with the Japanese soldiers. St. John was a coast watcher, or one keeping watch on passing enemy ships and reporting any sighting so that a US submarine would sink the vessel.

The saga of Richardson, an Army and Navy officer who became the chief of staff of Kangleon, was immortalized in a 301-page book titled "An American Guerrilla in the Philippines" that was written by Ira Wolfert and published in 1945. St. John also had a 220-page book about his stay in Leyte during the war, titled "Leyte Calling . . ." and published also in 1945.

Wartime tales also tell of the irony, tragedy and grief that war brings. In 1943, a young Japanese officer only identified as "Captain Yamasoy" was assigned to head the garrison of Dulag town.

Yamasoy was a polite and respectful person even to the Filipinos, and he also gave strict orders to his men not to abuse civilians and even the prisoners. He also played judo with the natives and went serenading with them. For this, he was liked and respected by the locals.

His genuine concern of the welfare of the residents showed when he learned of a plan of the guerrillas to raid their garrison. He told the guerrillas to meet him and his men outside of the town proper so that the non-combatants would not be harmed. He was on his way to the designated place of gun battle when he was felled by a sniper's bullet. They were ambushed in Barangay Curva (now Del Pilar).

When the residents learned of the incident, the whole town became silent and the church bell tolled. Now a marker stands on the very same spot where Yamasoy died.

The razing of Dulag

In October 1944, bombardment by battleships for two consecutive days immediately prior to the actual landing of Liberation forces razed Dulag to the ground.

Hundreds of residents including the town mayor and his seven-year-old daughter perished in that incident. Some died when their houses were hit; many perished inside crude air raid shelters near the beach that sustained direct hits.

A cenotaph now stands at Barangay Sungi, in memory of the Dulagueños who died those days.

(Tolosa and its nearby towns escaped the same fate because Valeriano Abello, a civilian who was an expert in semaphore, made use of his Boy Scout skill. Together with two friends, he sailed out to sea to signal to the battleships that they would hit civilians and at the same time telling the ships the actual positions of the enemy.)

At exactly 10:42 a.m. on Oct. 20, 1944, Lt. Clifford Mills of the 382nd Infantry, 96th Division of the American Liberation Forces, raised the American flag atop Hill 120, located about a kilometer north of the Dulag town proper. This was the first time that the American flag was raised since after the Fall of Bataan on April 9, 1942.

Today, almost six decades later, the town's war veterans will again join the civic-military parade, commemorative program and other related activities. The activity will start at 8 a.m.

Tomorrow, October 20, a bigger celebration will be held at Red Beach, Palo, Leyte, where General MacArthur landed 58 years ago, to commemorate the historic event.

Once again, storytellers would have a busy day recounting to the younger generation the events that occurred during the war.

The tragedy of Cherry Augusto

By Ivan P. Suansing
Cebu City

FIVE years ago, Cherry Basalo, a fresh and pretty mestiza from Agusan del Norte on a job hunt, came to Cebu City to try her luck.

It didn't take long for her to land a job as a salesgirl in a cellular phone shop, and get noticed by the owner Zandro Augusto, her future husband.

Their whirlwind romance resulted in a pregnancy, which forced Cherry to quit her job and live with Zandro.

"Zandro was Cherry's first boyfriend, first love," said Elvie, Cherry's younger sister.

After marrying in 1997, a union that was blessed with the birth of a baby boy, the couple decided to settle down in Cebu City.

It didn't take long before the match that was "made in heaven" would become a nightmare. It turned out that Zandro, who also owns cellular phone stores in Tagbilaran City and Butuan City, couldn't be a faithful partner.

In her private conversations with sister Elvie, Cherry would often reveal and lament her husband's philandering ways.

They eventually separated early this year, a separation she hoped would be temporary, but which Zandro wanted to seal with a petition for an annulment of their marriage.

Brokenhearted, Cherry retreated to Butuan City where she managed a small cellular phone store and took care of her four-year-old son.

But even with Cherry miles away, rumors of Zandro's illicit affair got stronger and more persistent. She decided to go back to Cebu City to face her worst fear.

Last August 10, it happened.

Renting a taxicab, she scoured the whole city looking for Zandro's vehicle, a Strada. At past 10 p.m., she found it parked in front of a restaurant where Zandro was having dinner with a female companion.

When Zandro and his woman left, Cherry tailed them. It was past midnight when Zandro's vehicle eased into a motel garage at the north reclamation area.

With the aid of policemen who responded to her complaint, Cherry decided to confront her husband. She caught him with his pants down. Zandro and his girlfriend only had towels wrapped around their waist.

"Cherry told Zandro to ask forgiveness from her because she would forgive him, but Zandro never did," Elvie said. Cherry could only cry.

The 'other woman'

Charges were later filed, but none against Zandro. It was his alleged companion, Assistant Cebu City Prosecutor Mary Ann Castro, who faced charges of immorality and grave misconduct.

Zandro denied she was with Castro that night, claiming he was with a certain "Cynthia Fernandez."

Fiscal Castro's alibi: she was out of town.

In an affidavit, Cherry said she was certain it was Castro, one of the most recognizable officials in the City Prosecutor's Office, that she saw in the motel room.

The two would have faced off Oct. 17 during a hearing of the case against the lady fiscal at the office of the Ombudsman in the Visayas.

But last Oct. 2, reportedly upon the prodding of her husband, Cherry suddenly retracted and withdrew her charges against Castro.

She decided to withdraw because she was running on a tight budget, Cherry later explained. Zandro had cut off financial support for her and their son.

"I want to live a normal life again," Cherry told reporters. Their marital controversy and the looming court battle were taking their toll.

"She spent a large part of her savings to pay for her lawyer, travel, and rent a place," Elvie recalled. "She relied only on the income of the cellular phone store."

In a radio interview in the morning of Oct. 3, however, Cherry repeated what to her was the truth. Despite her retraction, she reaffirmed her allegation that her husband was with Fiscal Castro in the motel.

That was the last time the public heard of her.

In the afternoon of the same day, Cherry was shot in the head on the ground floor of an apartment rented by her sister Elvie in Lapu-Lapu City. Two days later, on Saturday night, she passed away. She was 24.

CHERRY AUGUSTO FILE PHOTO

Police theory

Police investigators from Lapu-Lapu City theorized that an alleged suitor, PO1 Clementino "Tata" Dulguime, shot Cherry because of "jealousy," a motive they admitted "was hard to prove."

Without waiting for results of ballistics tests, police declared that "it was a crime of passion."

They speculated that after killing Cherry, Dulguime rushed up to the second floor and committed suicide, pumping a bullet through his head. There was, however, no eyewitness to the "homicide-suicide" theory.

Earlier in the morning, Dulguime delivered to Cherry copies of Cebu Daily News and a local tabloid, according to Cherry's housemaid Noraden Ruiz.

Ruiz said the policeman returned in the afternoon and waited for Cherry, who was supposed to go out for a meeting with her lawyer. While they were talking, Ruiz, who was outside the apartment, heard two successive gunshots.

When Ruiz peeped inside, what she saw stunned her. Cherry was slumped on the floor. Dulguime was standing near her, holding his gun. As Ruiz ran away, she heard a gunfire, followed by another shot.

With barangay volunteers, she went back to the apartment and brought Cherry to the Mactan Community Hospital.

A police team arrived more than 30 minutes after the shooting. They recovered among other things, Dulguime's service pistol, a .38 caliber revolver, with four empty shells, a misfired bullet and a live ammunition; and the policeman's cellular phone but without the SIM card.

While police investigators considered the case "closed," they said they would reopen it "as soon as new evidence was found."

Sloppy work

A retired official of the National Bureau of Investigation, however, said police investigation was "sloppy and not thorough."

Florencio Villarin, a former NBI director in Central Visayas, said police were not able to prove their "homicide-suicide" theory.

Cherry's alleged relationship with Dulguime had not been established, Villarin pointed out.

(Dulguime was married only this year, and was expecting his first baby.)

"If they had no relationship, this cannot be a crime of passion," Villarin said. "How can the motive be jealousy, when there is nothing between them?"

Villarin also noted that the police investigators were not thorough in searching the crime scene, an apartment with multiple rooms occupied by transient renters.

Police did not bother to check the rooms, or the background of the renters.

They also failed to prove that the slugs that hit Cherry and Dulguime came from the latter's .38 caliber service firearm, because no slug was tested.

"They should search for other physical evidence, they should have been thorough. The slugs could just have been there. Again, there is no substitute for thoroughness, because physical evidence does not lie," Villarin said.

He asked the police, for a start, to identify possible suspects.

Shocker

After her death, Cherry was brought home and buried in her hometown in Agusan del Norte.

Cherry's mother, Teresita Basalo said when her daughter was laid to rest at 5:30 p.m. last Sunday, Oct. 13, the entire barrio of Pinana-an grieved with them.

But a day later, with Basalo's permission, NBI experts based in Caraga dug up Cherry's remains for an autopsy.

Results of the autopsy proved to be a shocker: The gun that killed Cherry was not a .38 caliber revolver, Dulguime's service gun and alleged murder weapon.

According to an NBI report, Cherry's bullet wound was "too big" to have been caused by a .38 caliber gun.

The head wound was measured at one centimeter, indicating that the gunman could have used a .45 caliber pistol, the NBI said.

The NBI report also indicated that Cherry was not shot at close range. She was shot at a distance of more than 12 inches because of the absence of "smudging and tattooing," according to the NBI report.

"This autopsy result is needed to facilitate the filing of a case against the assailant," Cherry's mother said.

'Double murder'

So who shot Cherry Augusto?

"In the absence of proof that it is a homicide-suicide case, police should consider another theory, which could be double murder," Villarin said.

"As an investigator, I have to keep an open mind, why not work on another theory?" Villarin added.

He said it was possible that an unknown assassin shot Cherry to silence her, and Dulguime, when he tried to protect her. In that case, both were victims.

As things are, however, police and some members of the local media have already condemned the two. Cherry, for allegedly having a love affair with the policeman; and Dulguime, for allegedly killing someone he couldn't have.

That could turn out to be a grave injustice that is as bad as, if not worse than, an unsolved crime. *With Kathy Navarro and Suzzane Salva*

GMA: More security for 'high-impact' targets

From page A1

sages claiming that military intelligence had warned of a terrorist attack in shopping malls in Metro Manila within 72 hours.

"You could see an effort at disinformation," Golez said. "There is no such military intelligence."

Golez said the President would meet the mayors of Metro Manila and other areas where the government believes are potential targets in Malacañang on Monday.

He said the Palace would be giving instructions to these local executives on how to "harden" potential targets in their respective jurisdictions.

In the same briefing, acting Press Secretary Roberto Capco said that while Malacañang would not name the possible targets, the public would know because of a visible increase in security measures for these sites.

"These are public places (which) we think will provide the terrorists with the maximum publicity they like," Capco said.

In the same briefing, Police Deputy Director General Reynaldo Velasco of the National Capitol Regional Police Office said that his men are upgrading security measures for "vulnerable establishments."

Velasco identified them as the facilities of the Metro Rail Transit, Light Rail Transit and the different shopping malls in Metro Manila "where people converge."

Velasco said that the NCRPO has deployed uniformed cops as well as plainclothes detectives in patrolling these establishments.

Makati measures

In Makati City, Mayor Jejomar Binay said additional security measures are being taken to protect the various shopping malls, schools, exclusive subdivisions, embassies and businesses located in the country's financial district.

Police visibility especially in commercial centers has been increased, he said.

Binay said the city government would also meet with security personnel of foreign embassies to discuss safety measures. A command conference with the city's police chief and police operatives and barangay *tanods*, and a meeting with the peace and order council has also been scheduled, he also said.

The city's K-9 unit has also been deployed 24 hours, seven days a week, and would go around commercial areas, Binay said, adding the city would soon acquire the most sophisticated detection equipment to further safeguard their area.

"We would like to assure the public that our policemen in the NCRPO are doing everything to avoid any untoward incident similar to Zamboanga City."

He added that the NCRPO is "working closely with the national headquarters (in Camp Crame), the Armed Forces, and the intelligence community to ensure that we would not experience something like that (Zamboanga blast)."

Central Police District director Sr. Supt. Napoleon Castro said he has deployed 85 percent of his men in the field, with the remaining 15 percent assigned to man police desks.

Castro also called on citizens to be vigilant in their area "to help police prevent any untoward incident brought about by local terrorists."

Besides guarding vital government and commercial installations, the police have also tightened their watch over hardware stores inside malls.

Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong, Western Police District director, said they are concerned that terrorists, once inside the mall, might buy bomb-making materials from these hardware stores.

Police believe this was what happened during the May 2000 bombing in SM Megamall.

VIP watch

The Philippine National Police has also directed policemen escorting VIPs, including diplomats, senators and congressmen, to adopt more stringent security measures in the wake of the bomb attacks in Zamboanga City.

"We have intensified the security of the VIPs; but so far there's nothing to be alarmed of," said Chief Supt. Prospero Noble, chief of the Police Security and Protection (PSPO). He declined to specify the security measures adopted.

The PSPO is providing close-in security for at least 100 VIPs, including deposed President Joseph Estrada and his son, Jinggoy Estrada, who are undergoing trial for plunder before the Sandiganbayan.

Director Ricardo de Leon, director for police community relations, said that policemen in Metro Manila have begun conducting mobile checkpoints as part of the PNP's counter-terrorism measures.

"They are conducting routine, spot checks at night," he said, referring to the mobile checkpoints being conducted by policemen in some areas in the metropolis in the evening.

In Bacolod City, former President Fidel Ramos called for a unified plan to counter terrorism.

"There is no defense against a trained assassin or a trained bomber and I tell that to you out of more than 45 years of experience as a soldier," Ramos said.

Even if the entire Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police are placed in Basilan, he said, "you cannot possibly cover every square meter effectively."

The better approach, he added, was still to improve the whole system, starting with effective intelligence-gathering.

Military suspected

But militant groups yesterday said probers should not discount the possibility that some military elements may have been involved in Thursday's bombings, so as to justify the implementation of a national ID system and the passage of the Anti-Terrorism Act.

The militant fisherfolk group Pamalakaya and peasant network Nnara-Youth said investigators tasked would be committing "a grave mistake" if they would not explore the possibility that rightist elements had something to do with bombings.

Both groups said that the military has the motive, expertise and resources at its disposal to carry out such acts.

In Congress, however, the recent bombings prompted the House leadership to recommend a 40-percent increase, amounting to P151 million, in the government budget for intelligence gathering.

Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., who proposed the increase with House appropriations committee chair Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr., said there could be more increases for intelligence budget "as the situation unfolds."

De Venecia said the 40-percent raise is a pittance in the face of new bombings in Zamboanga City and the possibility of more terrorist attacks in Southeast Asia.

The government has a total budget for intelligence gathering amounting to P361 million this year. Of this amount, P270 million goes to the Philippine National Police; P78 million for the Armed Forces which was lower than the P84.2 million it got last year; and P28 million for the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency. *With reports from Alcuin Papa; TJ Burgonio; Jhunnex Napallacan and Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau; Gerald Lacuarta; Juliet Javellana; Blanche Rivera; Tina Santos; Norman Bordadora*

GMA declares long weekend . . .

From page A1

This means that there will be a four-day break, from Thursday until Sunday, that week.

The President issued Proclamation No. 277 designating Oct. 31 and Nov. 2 as special non-working days to "give full opportunity to our people to properly observe the day with all its religious fervor."

She said the long break was needed because the observance of All Saints' Day "invariably them to travel to and from different regions of the country."

The President issued the proclamation upon the recommendation of the Department of Tourism.

Holiday economics

The Macapagal administration has made it a policy to give the people long breaks to encourage local travel and boost domestic spending in what it describes as "holiday economics." The government is seeking to revitalize domestic economic activity in the face of the current global economic slump.

Financial markets usually close during the special holidays, but a formal circular has yet to be issued, market officials said.

With a report from Reuters

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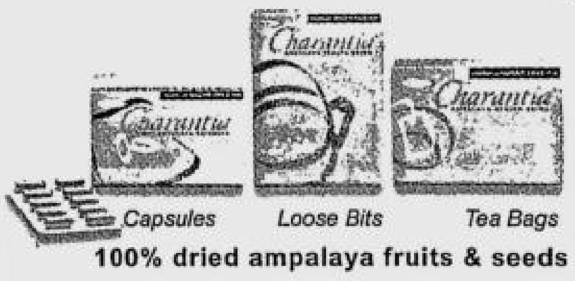

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Corpus not quitting

By Martin P. Marfil and Carlito Pablo

MILITARY intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus yesterday said he did not intend to quit as a reaction to criticism that the bomb attacks in Zamboanga City resulted from a failure of intelligence.

Corpus also told reporters that the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces (Isafp) had not been negligent, and that even its most efficient counterparts in the world had not been able to stop terrorist bombings in their own countries.

"Even the Israelis, the world's best intelligence operatives, could not stop the almost daily suicide bombings in their country," he said in Taglish. "The CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) was not able to prevent the Sept. 11 terror attacks in New York and Washington. How can we stop these attacks when we are not as good as they?"

To the earlier call of lawmakers that he be sacked, Corpus said: "That's what they want, but I am not resigning. It's up to my superiors if they will believe (the lawmakers)."

In Zamboanga, President Macapagal-Arroyo exhorted everyone to "stop banging the intelligence (community) left and right."

She said that even with its strong intelligence service, the United States failed to prevent the Sept. 11 attacks and locate prime terrorist suspect Osama bin Laden, or even the unknown sniper currently terrorizing Washington.

"I don't want to talk about intelligence failure," she said.

The President spoke at a briefing in Zamboanga, where she inspected the bombing sites, consoled the wounded, and conferred with local, military and police officials.

At the same briefing, AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Benjamin Defensor said it was "very difficult to predict" attacks by terrorists.

"They have the luxury to identify the time and place," he said. "This is not the time to put the blame on anybody."

The President said the Zamboanga bombings demonstrated the need for the citizenry to get involved in the government's fight against terrorism.

Unfair

"I am calling on all members of society to join hands with our law enforcement agencies and rise to this challenge as one," she said. "Terrorism can't survive for long in an unfriendly environment."

At Camp Aguinaldo, AFP public information chief Lt. Col. Danilo Servando said it was unfair to accuse intelligence people of negligence.

"They have been performing their jobs well," he told reporters. "In fact, they have organized a task force in Zamboanga to assist the Southern Command (in terms of) intelligence requirements."

In a TV interview Thursday night, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes pointed out that terrorist acts were "easy" to carry out and difficult to prevent.

"These are almost impossible to detect and prevent because (terrorists) have a choice of time and place to conduct their activities," Reyes said, echoing Defensor. "This is not the time to blame anyone. This is the time to unite and cooperate and support the government's drive (against) terrorism."

At Fort del Pilar in Baguio City, AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Eduardo Purificacion Jr. said the Isafp had not failed in its duty.

"While I respect the perception of our political leaders, (the military) does not see any failure in our intelligence gathering programs," he told reporters. "Any intelligence program will be successful when the people themselves cooperate with and assist the military. Even other countries like the United States or (countries in) Europe or even East Asia (rely) on their own people. They may have highly technical (spying equipment), and yet we saw the terrorists topple the Twin Towers (of the World Trade Center)."

Purificacion said the bomb attacks in Zamboanga had surprised the military.

He said the Abu Sayyaf remained the military's primary suspect, although the government would not rule out criminal groups.

Not enough

On the proposal that Isafp chief Corpus be sacked, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said this might not be enough.

"The problem may not be only personal but (also) structural, procedural and logistical," he said. "I believe that the first line of defense not only against insurgency but more importantly against terrorists ... is good and effective intelligence." *With reports from Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Cynthia D. Balana in Manila*

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3 killed in bus bombing

From page A1

which occurred about 10 minutes after midnight, damaged a passing Toyota Hi-Ace van driven by a 42-year-old businessman from Marikina City, Nelson S. dela Peña. The explosion shattered the van's windows, but Dela Peña and his four companions were unhurt. The red van was headed toward Makati.

The other grenade, found at the intersection of Edsa and McKinley Road in Forbes Park, just below the same flyover, failed to go off even though its lever had already been pulled. A bomb squad detonated it at around 3:45 a.m.

During the day, phoned-in bomb threats unsettled the occupants at the Rufino Pacific Towers in Makati; the Manila City Hall and the Professional Regulatory Commission (PRC) building in Manila; and the Pag-Ibig Fund office in Quezon City. A suspicious package tucked under a pew at the Basilica of the Black Nazarene in Quiapo also brought anti-bomb experts in.

All the threats proved to be false alarms.

Not terrorist

"We don't see any connection with Zamboanga," National Security Adviser Roilo Golez told a group of foreign journalists. "I don't think it was a real terrorist group."

"There's no reason for alarm and we should not allow our normal life to be disrupted," Golez said.

Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay was also quick to allay fears that the incident was a terrorist attack, saying the timing, method and device used show that the incident was not meant to sow terror.

He said the fact that a grenade was used showed the incident was not planned. And then, he said, the grenades were thrown at midnight, when most people are off the streets, and in a flyover at that, which is not a densely populated place even at daytime.

"Terrorists want maximum exposure and maximum damage," Binay said.

In a radio interview, Binay also said: "Two grenades were thrown. One exploded, the other fell to the ground."

"From all indications, this looks like a petty quarrel, maybe someone drunk. This is not a terrorist act," he said.

Deputy Director Gen. Reynaldo Velasco, Metro Manila police chief, had a slightly different explanation: he said the grenade-throwing incident was an altercation between two groups.

Makati City Police chief Supt. Jovito Gutierrez echoed the sentiment, saying the police do not consider the incident a terrorist attack.

"Terrorists don't work that way," he said. But he said the Makati police would continue to investigate the incident to determine the motive behind it.

Gutierrez also said the bombs used in the Zamboanga attacks were improvised explosive devices, but the ones found in Makati were fragmentation grenades.

SPO2 Edward Quilala of the Special Weapons and Tactics Team said the MK2 fragmentation hand grenade, known as the "atis," was the kind used in World War II, and is also used in the military today.

Supt. Angel Sumulong, head of the unit investigating the explosion, said pranksters might have lobbed the grenade for fun.

"That's not the work of terrorists. Some people just want to ride on situations like this," Chief Supt. Robert Delfin, police director for intelligence, said in a phone interview.

An official, who asked not to be named, said that Metro Manila was much safer than the rest of the country because the authorities were enforcing "strong counter-measures" against terrorists following the Dec. 30, 2000 bombings. *(See related story on Page A1.)*

Five explosions ripped through the metropolis that day, killing at least 22 people.

Phone threats

According to SPO4 Manuel Umali of the Tactical Operations Center, the security office of the Rufino Towers reported to the police at around 11:20 a.m. that it had received a bomb threat over the telephone.

But SWAT members failed to find any evidence of a bomb or an explosive, said Umali, and declared the building safe two hours later.

At the Quiapo Church, packed with Black Nazarene devotees attending the regular Friday Mass, two plastic bags caught the attention of churchgoers.

Senior Insp. Bodino Molato, Western Police District-Explosives and Ordnance Division chief, said the police were alerted about the suspicious package at around 8:20 a.m.

"We isolated the package and then brought it out of the church. The Mass continued," Molato said.

The police inspected the plastic bags and found that it contained clothes and other personal belongings of a homeless woman in her 70s.

The woman, who sleeps outside the church, left her bags under the pew because she had to go to the toilet.

"She got angry at us when she saw that her plastic bags were torn. There was also some food left inside," Molato said.

Two hours later, the EOD received another bomb alert, this time from City Hall.

A man had called the Manila Regional Trial Court Library on the fifth floor at around 10:30 a.m. Employee Edith Cochingco, who answered the phone, was told there was a bomb in the building.

EOD member P03 Noel Sublay said bomb-sniffing dogs searched the library while the entire fifth floor was evacuated. But after a one-hour sweep, the police found no bomb.

At around 11:50 a.m., a man called up the office of the PRC chair on Morayta Street. The man warned about a bomb but a police sweep later found none.

Molato said that although yesterday's incidents turned out to be negative, the police welcomed people's heightened vigilance.

Pag-Ibig office

The Pag-Ibig Fund office in Quezon City was thrown into temporary chaos after a male caller made a bomb threat.

But responding policemen of the Central Police District's Special Weapons and Tactics-Explosives Ordnance Division found no explosives in the building, located at the corner of East Avenue and Edsa.

According to SPO1 Noel Velasquez of the CPD's SWAT-EOD, the call was made at around 2:16 p.m. The prank caller told the secretary who received the call that the building had to be evacuated because a bomb would go off in one hour.

Responding explosives experts conducted a sweep of all five floors of the building but found no explosives. The Pag-Ibig Fund offices occupy the first and second floor of the building.

Molato aired an appeal to anyone who sees a suspicious-looking package to immediately call the authorities. He said the Manila EOD's hotline is 523-1251.

Molato said EOD bomb experts are on standby 24 hours a day. *With reports from Tina Santos, Alcuin Papa, TJ Burgonio, Reuters, AFP*

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4 Zambo blast suspects hunted

From page A1

In the same briefing, the President was piqued by persistent questions about whether the Abu Sayyaf was indeed responsible for the bombing.

"I don't think it is wise to make official statements that are based on armchair deduction," Ms Macapagal said. "Freedom of the press is different from the responsibility of a public servant who must make an announcement grounded on empirical truth."

"If you want ... do the armchair deductions that you write under a free press," the President said.

Placing blame

But defense officials down the line pointed the finger of blame in the same direction.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said he believed that the Zamboanga City bomb attacks were carried out by either Abu Sayyaf bandits or Moro Islamic Liberation Front rebels.

Reyes said these groups have the motive, which is to divert government offensives against their camps in Patikul, Sulu and Sultan Gumander in Lanao.

"Anything is possible, but our theory here is that, number one, we have an ongoing offensive in Patikul ... simultaneously, we have another offensive (in Lanao Sur) and we have killed so far 46 terrorists there. I think that they are trying to recover and divert our attention to relieve pressures from these areas," he said in a television interview the other night.

Military spokesman Brig. Gen. Eduardo Purificacion said yesterday the Abu Sayyaf remained the prime suspect in the Zamboanga bombings.

He said the group had previously carried out attacks in the south to ease military pressure on factions on the run from a military offensive in the nearby islands of Basilan and Jolo.

"Whether they have connections (to foreign groups) or not, they (the Abu Sayyaf) are doing it on their own because they are now being cornered by the military and the national police," he said.

Newly appointed SouthernCommand chief Lt. Gen. Narciso Abaya also said the Abu Sayyaf was more likely to be involved.

"There is no hard link yet but our bomb experts say there is a similarity between the bombs that exploded (on Oct. 2) and the two bombs in the shopping malls," he told reporters.

An explosion near a military depot in Zamboanga City on Oct. 2 killed a US soldier engaged in counter-terrorism training and three Filipinos.

Police cautious

The police continued to issue cautious statements, however.

"We are not pointing at any group or individuals and there is no evidence to point to any person or group," said Supt. Mario Biong Yanga, the Zamboanga City Police director in a phone interview.

Yanga said they don't have suspects to pin down, no arrests set, "no established motive and ... no evidence to gather."

NO ARMCHAIR analyst, the President herself goes to the scene of the explosion in Zamboanga City on Friday. DENNIS SABANGAN

Task Force Zamboanga Commander Col. Alexander Yapching supported Yanga's statement, saying "no evidence (was) recovered from the blast site because after the explosion, there was a fire, (and) firefighters tried to put off the fire and ... washed away whatever evidence we could recover from the area."

But Yapching also told the INQUIRER that "there is only one group behind these explosions, and we believed that those responsible for last Oct. 2's Malagutay blast is one and the same."

"We have one suspect in mind, it's still Abu Sayyaf," Yapching said.

During her visit, the President met with local, military and police officials, inspected the blast site and condoled with the bombing victims. She chatted with sales staff cleaning up the aftermath of the attack, and visited a 2-year-old boy who was among the injured, as well as a mortuary.

"I am calling all members of society to join hands with our law enforcement agencies to rise to this challenge as one," Ms Macapagal told reporters.

"Terrorism can't survive for long in an unfriendly environment. Let us give terrorism an unfriendly environment."

Yesterday, the police announced that they had arrested three suspects in connection with a bus depot bombing in Kidapawan on Oct. 10 which killed six people.

Police said the three did not appear to be involved in the other bombings, describing the arrested suspects as extortionists.

Seven bombs?

Yapching said there was a total of seven bombs last Thursday: "only two exploded, three detonated and two (were) simply for bomb scare (purposes)."

Yapching refused to give more details, "so as not to create more panic among the residents."

But Yanga said only five bombs detected: "two exploded while the three were disrupted, but the three packages were not bombs, they were just suspicious packages."

After the twin explosions, the police recovered three more bags. They later discovered that one of the bags recovered at Shopper's Central contained World Balance rubber shoes, the second bag near Landbank contained assorted canned goods and the third which was outside the gate of the Zamboanga City Police had assorted clothes.

"I feel really, really very bad about it, but we cannot just succumb to this kind of terror," Zamboanga City Mayor Maria Clara Lobregat told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

International links?

If international terrorists were involved, Reyes said in his TV interview, they would still need to use local terrorists like the Abu Sayyaf or the MILF.

"Whether al-Qaida or Jemaah Islamiyah, still they have to use local terrorists because what they're doing is link up with local terrorists," he said.

Asked if the bombs were planted by other groups, Reyes admitted that at this point, they were still on the level of "conjecturing."

"It could be any of those suspects but as of now, we are more confident, we are more certain about this assessment that local terrorists (did this), Abu Sayyaf or MILF extremists," he said.

But in her briefing, President Macapagal said that it would not be fruitful to "speculate."

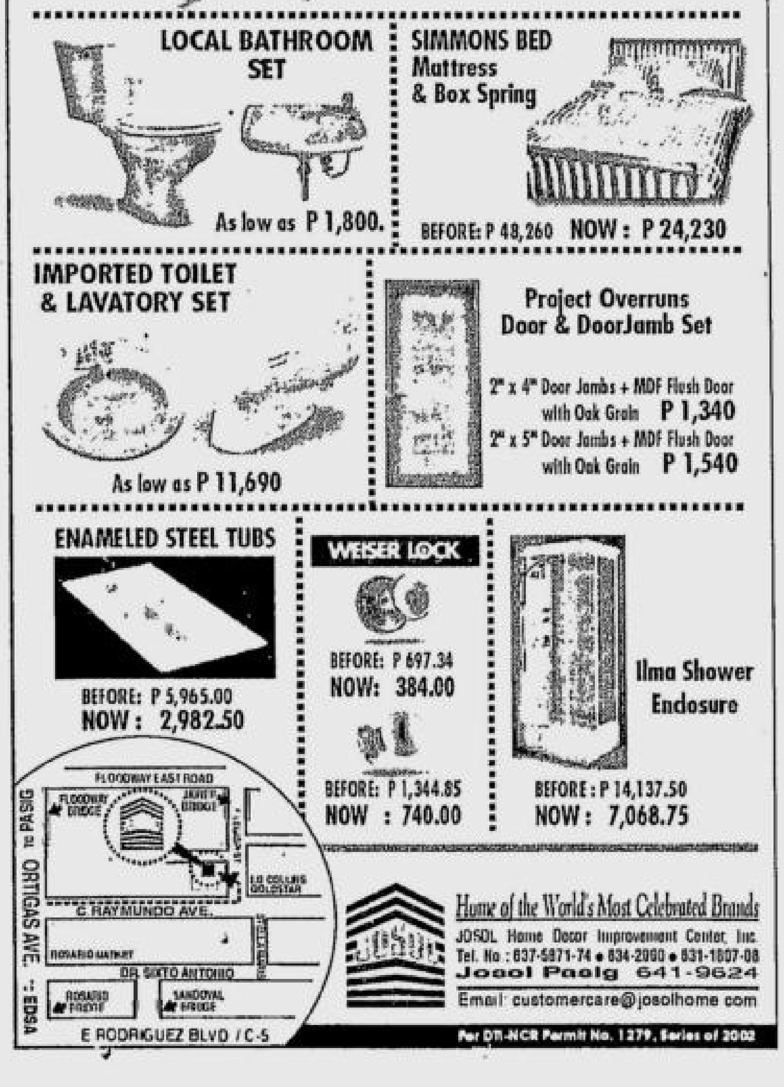
"Let us wait for the charges to be filed next week and we are waiting for the explanation and investigation especially on who the perpetrators are," Ms Macapagal said. "Let's not speculate."

Ms Macapagal commended local officials as well as the people of Zamboanga City for the "fighting spirit" they have demonstrated in the aftermath of the bombings.

"They are the example that I want the whole country to follow," the President said. "They are all working together for the immediate solution to the problem."

She noted that Zamboanga City has one of the most successful disaster coordinating centers and "that's the reason it is very easy for the local officials, the armed services and the civilian services to work together when a crisis occurs."

"I hope this system can be established in other parts of the Philippines," the President added. *With reports from AP, AFP, Reuters*



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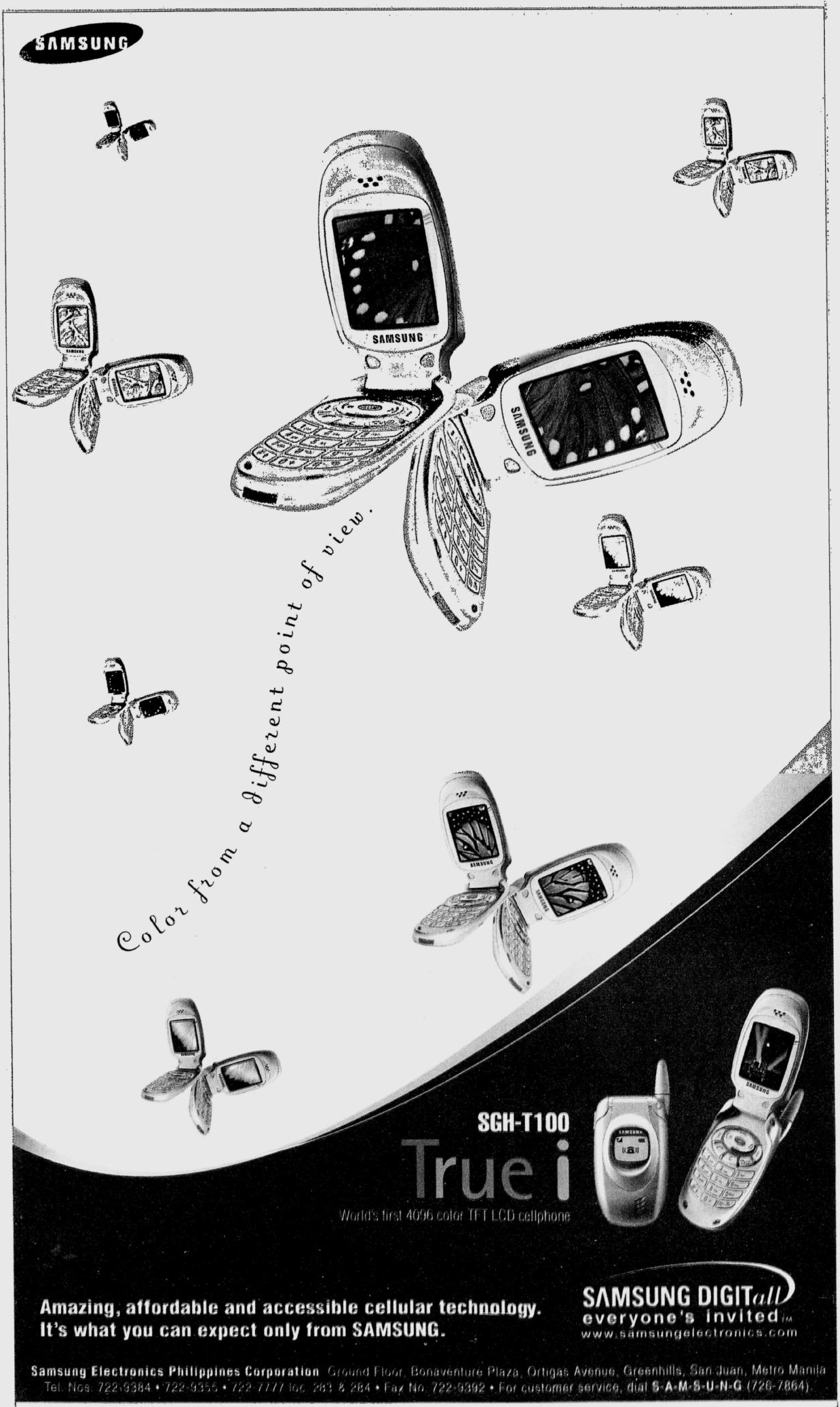
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SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ◎ *Associate Editor* **Edwin M. Villanueva**

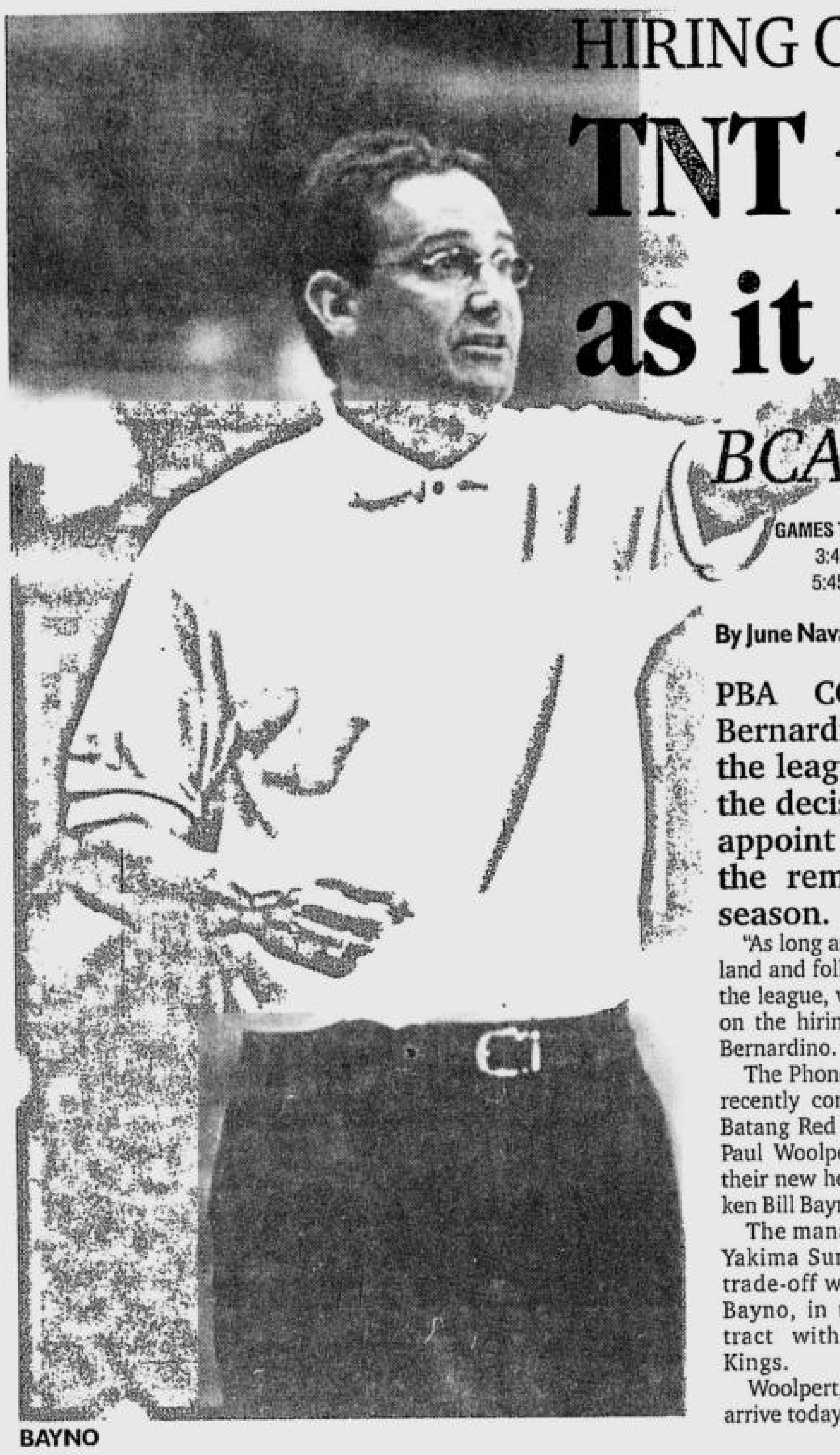
Ateneo meets San Sebastian

UAAP champion Ateneo eyes its fourth straight win when it faces NCAA winner San Sebastian Stags in today's final game of the eliminations of the UAAP-NCAA Benefit Games at 4 p.m. at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum. The semifinals start on Sunday.

HIRING OF COACH

TNT move okay as long as it follows rules–Jun B.

BCAP to monitor Woolpert's application



BAYNO

GAMES TOMORROW *(Araneta Coliseum)*
3:45 p.m.–FedEx vs San Miguel
5:45 p.m.–Ginebra vs Purefoods

By June Navarro

PBA COMMISSIONER Jun Bernardino yesterday said the league has no qualms on the decision of Talk N Text to appoint a new head coach for the remainder of the 2002 season.

"As long as it complies with the laws of the land and follows the rules and regulations of the league, we respect Talk N Text's decision on the hiring of its next head coach," said Bernardino.

The Phone Pals, who lost the crown in the recently concluded Commissioner's Cup to Batang Red Bull, named veteran CBA coach Paul Woolpert of the Yakima Sun Kings as their new head coach in place of the outspoken Bill Bayno.

The management of Talk N Text and the Yakima Sun Kings reportedly agreed in a trade-off with their respective coaches as Bayno, in turn, signed a six-month contract with the Washington-based Sun Kings.

Woolpert, a three-time CBA champion, will arrive today and is expected to trigger another upheaval from the Basketball Coaches Association of the Philippines.

"We'll be more vigilant this time," said Chito Narvasa, president of the Basketball Coaches Association of the Philippines.

BERNARDINO

Narvasa said the BCAP would strictly monitor Woolpert's application for a work permit at the Department of Labor and oppose any move that would install the CBA champion coach as head mentor of Talk N Text.

As a rule, foreigners requesting for a work permit at the Dole should appear on at least two newspapers of general circulation and if there are no objections within five days, the Dole issues the permit to the applicant without question.

"When Bayno applied for a work permit, they didn't publish it on a widely circulated daily. That's the reason why we failed to stop Bayno's application," said Narvasa. "This time we'll be on guard. The moment Woolpert's application appears on one of the newspapers, we will immediately file a complaint at the Dole."

Narvasa, however, feared that Talk N Text had all the kinks already ironed out, putting the BCAP's plea in a tight situation.

Just the same, Narvasa said the BCAP would continue its fight against the hiring of foreign coaches as the former Purefoods coach cited the high supply of Filipino coaches in the country.

"It's really unfair to hire foreign coaches when there are Filipino coaches here struggling to find a job. At that, we will make sure that the BCAP's cause will not be a futile exercise," he added.

In an interview from Seattle, the 40-year-old Bayno thanked the Talk N Text management, especially team owner Manny Pangilinan and Talk N Text governor Ricky Vargas, for their support despite failing to give the Phone Pals their first-ever title in the league.

"It's a very difficult decision to make. I love the team and I love my players but I cannot do it anymore down there," said Bayno.

Still, the former University of Las Vegas-Nevada coach is hoping that he could bring his craft again in the PBA someday.

"I'm using the CBA as a stepping-stone to the NBA. If my plans fail, I'll probably entertain another coaching job in the Philippines," said Bayno.

Meanwhile, the season-ending All-Filipino Cup begins tomorrow at the Araneta Coliseum.

FedEx battles San Miguel in the opener at 3:45 p.m., while Ginebra faces Purefoods at 5:45 p.m.

Paeng ready to carry country's colors again

By Roy Luarca

FOR Paeng Nepomuceno, representing the country is a lifelong commitment.

NEPOMUCENO

"*Habang kaya ko pa. Tuluy-tuloy*, (I'll continue to compete as long as I can)," Nepomuceno said in a taped message aired during an episode of the television show "Morning Girls" yesterday.

The 45-year-old Nepomuceno has nothing more to prove in bowling. He's been acclaimed as the Greatest Filipino Athlete, the world's greatest bowler ever, has been enshrined in the Hall of Fame and has been listed in the Guinness Book of World Records since 1994. Yet, he obliged to lead the Philippine bowling team during the just-concluded 14th Busan Asian Games.

And Paeng did not disappoint. He and partner Rowen Jay Bautista, who refers to him as "Idol," took the gold medal in the men's doubles, one of only three the Philippines took home.

Paeng, who has to receive therapeutic treatment in-between games in Busan, said he believes he has several years left before calling it quits. It is his competitive spirit and the support of his countrymen that keep him going he said. That's why he dedicated his latest triumph to them. "To the Filipino people, this (victory) is all for you."

With his present form, Paeng is likely to spearhead the country's bid in the 2003 Vietnam Southeast Asian Games and, maybe, even in the 2004 Athens Olympics. Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit and Philippine Sports Commission chairman Eric Buhain will be praying for that.

Eagle Ridge tourney today

MORE than a hundred players have signed up for the monthly tournament for October of the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club set today at the Faldo course of the country's biggest golf complex in Gen. Trias, Cavite. Tee-off time is 8 a.m.

Titlist and Footjoy through its local distributor Dynamic Sports and Leisure Corp. headed by Cris Tang, will be sponsoring the prizes for the tournament winners as well as the raffle items.

Raul Bandera is expected to be back to seek a second straight title in Class A after edging Korean expat Li Seok Ho by just a stroke at the composite Aoki and Dye course in another well-attended tourney last month.

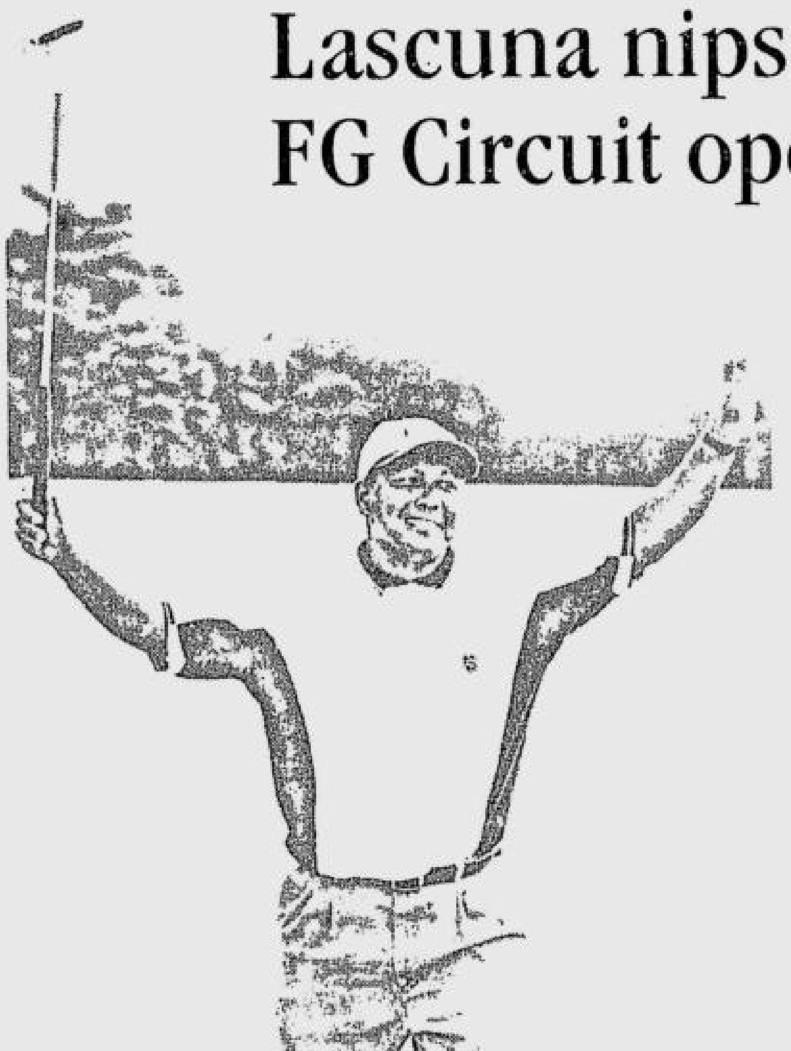
The other divisions (Classes B, C and D) are also expected to be closely disputed.

Weekend tournaments not just for members but for guests are being accepted depending on availability. Either the Faldo or the Dye courses can be used since the Aoki and Dye courses are reserved for members during weekends.

For inquiries, please call telephone number 046-4192841 or fax to 046-4192843.

Upon its completion early next year, the Dye course designed by Greg Norman—only the first nine holes of which are playable, will complete a 72-hole package for Eagle Ridge.

Lascuna nips Dizon, wins FG Circuit opening leg



LASCUNA raises both arms in triumph. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

By Jong Arcano

ANTONIO Lascuna spoiled the party for two newly-turned pros by winning the kickoff leg of the First Gentleman's Professional Golf Circuit after a thrilling sudden-death playoff with Marlon Dizon yesterday at the Sta. Elena course in Cabuyao, Laguna.

Lascuna, the dusky pro from Davao, let victory slip away with two close misses in the last three holes of regulation play. But when the pressure test came, it was the young Dizon who fell apart.

Dizon, seeking history as the first player to win his maiden stint as a pro in nearly 20 years, lost his bid when he left his approach on the playoff hole way, way short and below the sharply angled green. With a 40-footer to make the birdie, even the par that could have extended the playoff flew away.

Lascuna barely missed his own winning birdie putt from 12 feet but with his par secured from inches away, the pressure went back to Dizon, who shared the lead in all three days who faced a downhill eight-foot putt to save par.

Dizon watched the ball slide by the edge of the cup, ending his impressive show of bravery against the men of the tour.

Tapping in for par, the 31-year-old Lascuna thus crowned himself the first winner of the circuit revival made possible by First Gentleman Mike Arroyo's Foundation that sends the pros back to competitive action after almost two years.

"With so many more legs coming, I'm sure our local pros will work harder and hopefully draw more people to watch them in the golf courses," said the First Gentleman after following the final flight in the playoff.

He also promised to provide extra incentives for those topping the circuit.

Lascuna and Dizon, tied for the lead after 54 holes, stayed glued to each other all day despite struggling in various points. They finished with similar 76s and 72-hole totals of 290, one ahead of the Mizuno-sponsored Mars Pucay (70) and another brand new pro Cookie LaO (74).

Dizon had his biggest blunder on the 15th where he held a one-stroke lead over Lascuna. He three-putted an uphill birdie attempt and allowed Lascuna to pull even.

Tommy Manotoc won the amateur division, scoring a 76-149 to beat Dave Hernandez by five strokes.

"*Kumpiyansa ako mananalo ako. Nakawala lang sa mga huling butas pero dahil na rin sa paghahanda ko nakuha rin*," said Lascuna, who won the top prize of P100,000 out of the P500,000 total pot.

Dizon rued the lost opportunity but felt he could have done better if not for his faulty iron touch.

RP archer shines

MELBOURNE—Archer Raul Ramon Arambulo did the country proud by winning a bronze medal in the recent FITA indoor compound tournament in the recent 5th World Masters Games here.

Arambulo scored 566 points to become the first ever Filipino medalist in the prestigious tourney which saw 25,000 athletes from 90 countries participate in 24 events.

"I'm so happy for being able to give honors to the country," said Arambulo. "I'm glad that my long preparation and training paid off."

Two other Filipino entries in the competition division—Adam Jimenez III and Gen. Jose Marlowe Pedregosa, the delegation head—tallied 547 and 527 points, respectively, to finish 10th and 27th.

Express Tour welcomes backers

THE AIR21 EXPRESS Tour will tap the support of corporate sponsors just like what the Philippine Basketball Association did in handling its teams.

Express Tour executive director Mar Mendoza said the tour would entice a team sponsor for each of the 12 cycling squads beginning with the Express Tour's 2003 season.

Mendoza said major sponsors are more than welcome to enter the elite circle of team sponsors, adopt a team of its choice and handle the squad's operations year round.

"With the PBA's style of handling the teams, the tour will definitely be a huge success in the years to come," said Air21 chair Bert Lina, who infused life on the tour after coming up with the four-stage Express Tour of Calabarzon last summer.

The 12 competing squads open for sponsorships in the Air21 Express Tour 2003 season are Cagayan Valley, Ilocandia, Cordillera, Pangasinan, Nueva Ecija, Central Luzon, Metro Manila, Calabarzon, Bicol, East Visayas, West Visayas and Mindanao.

Aside from team sponsorships, the Express Tour is also on the lookout for event sponsors, which will be on hand to provide entertainment on each stage during the 14-day cycling adventure tentatively scheduled on April 25-May 11 next year.

"So expect a festive atmosphere on each stop. These activities add color and glamour to the tour itself," said Air21 president Lito Alvarez, Air21-Fedex's team manager and governor in the PBA.

On the event's grand launching at the end of the month, tour organizers will unveil a new name and logo for the 2003 season.

Pre-qualifying races will begin on Nov. 10 and 17 in Pililia, Rizal, for Luzon participants and Nov. 23 in Argao, Cebu for Visayas and Mindanao aspirants. The final qualifying races will be held in Antipolo City on Dec. 1 and 2.

Application forms are available at the Professional Cycling Association of the Philippines at the Amoranto Stadium in Quezon City. Deadline for registration is Oct. 31. Call PCAP president Paquito Rivas or Nel at tel. no. 879-4374 for inquiries.

NBA PRE-SEASON

Lakers still team to beat

SHAQUILLE O'Neal and the Los Angeles Lakers are still the team to beat in the coming NBA season.

Title contenders Sacramento Kings, New Jersey Nets and San Antonio Spurs found this out in the off-season as they loaded up on the big men and added vital pieces to what they hope could help them solve a championship puzzle come June 2003.

The new NBA season starts on Oct. 30. Solar Entertainment will air the NBA games at 7 p.m. every Monday and Thursday on IBC 13 and live games every day on the Solar Sports Network.

The Kings return with the same potent eight-man crew that snagged the best NBA regular season record last year (61-21) and pushed the Lakers to Game Seven of the Western Conference Finals. Plus, they have added quality big man Keon Clark, 6-11. CNNSI.com contends that "three straight years of losing to the Lakers in the playoffs may finally come to an end."

Still licking their wounds from their 0-4 pummeling from the Lakers in the NBA finals, the Nets went out and got the best defensive big man on the block, four-time Defensive Player of the Year Dikembe Mutombo, 7-2, and signed tested playoff performers Chris Childs and Rodney Rogers.

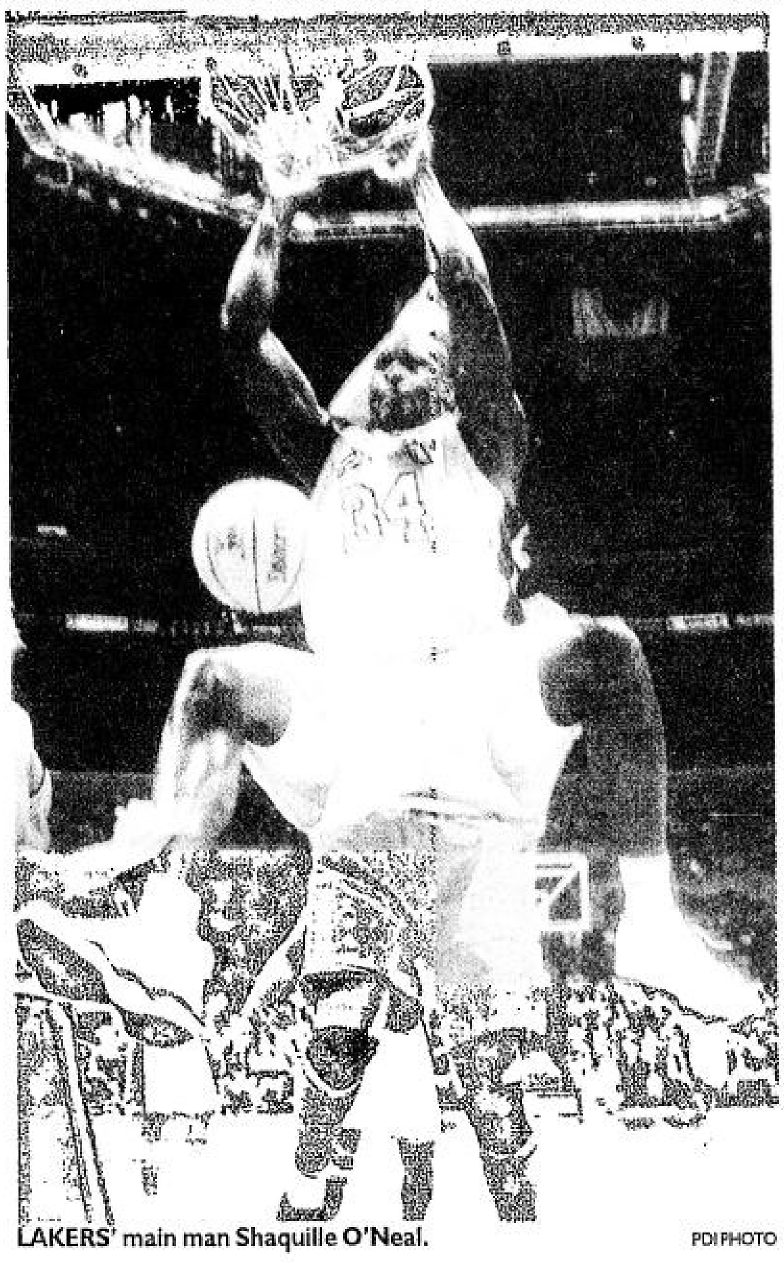
The Spurs, already armed with twin towers Tim Duncan and David Robinson, added a third tower in Bateer Menke, the 6-11 Chinese behemoth, but their most important addition is a rookie, Argentinian sensation Emanuel Ginobili. The Portland Trailblazers also coaxed 7-3, 38-year-old Arvydas Sabonis out of retirement.

The upgrades make them better teams, said prestigious US sports periodicals like Sports Illustrated, ESPN and Street & Smith's NBA Preview, but the presence of superstars O'Neal and Kobe Bryant on the three-time reigning champion Lakers make them the hands-down favorites for this season.

O'Neal is recovering from a toe surgery, but will return in a few weeks "free of the soreness that plagued him all last year," said NBA.com. O'Neal has ranked among the league's top three in scoring for the last five years. Last year, his 27.2 points per game was second in the NBA and his 57.9 percent field goal percentage led the league.

With O'Neal out, Bryant becomes the team's primary scoring option, which means, "we'll see just how good the kid really is," said NBA.com. Last year, Bryant was one of only two players (along with Tracy McGrady) to average better than 25 points, five rebounds and five assists. He was also the only non-point guard in the NBA's top 20 assists.

11 days to NBA opening on Oct. 30. Did you know that Shaquille O'Neal holds the record for most free throws attempted, none made, in an NBA game? O'Neal shot zero out of 11 against Seattle on Dec. 8, 2000.



LAKERS' main man Shaquille O'Neal. PDI PHOTO

Angels 6-5 favorite

LAS VEGAS—The Anaheim Angels, who opened the season a 75-1 pick to win the World Series in some sports books, are a slight favorite over the San Francisco Giants.

The Angels were 6-5 favorites over the Giants at most local sports books, which expect good betting on the World Series because both teams are from California. The odds vary at different sports books.

At the beginning of the season, the Angels had 75-1 odds to win the World Series at Bally's and Paris Las Vegas sports books, while the Stardust had them at 40-1.

The Giants began the year as 7-1 favorites at the Stardust and 25-1 at Bally's and Paris.

"I think the Angels are more of a complete team," John Avello, director of race and sports book operations for Bally's and Paris, said Thursday. "But anything could happen. Your bat could go cold, but I like the Angels."

Despite the odds. Joe Lupo, race and sports book director for the Stardust, isn't convinced.

"I think the Giants will win. Just my personal opinion," he said. *AP*

SPORTSWATCH

Agassi tames Spanish rival

MADRID, Spain—Ole, Andre! Andre Agassi blew a second-set match point, but came back to tame young Spaniard Feliciano Lopez in a three-set thriller Thursday to gain the quarterfinals at the inaugural Madrid Masters. The American, seeded second in Spain's biggest tennis tournament ever, won 7-6 (6), 6-7 (8), 7-5 before a rockin' Rockodromo center-court crowd at the Pabellon de Cristal. Next up for Agassi will be another member of the "Spanish Armada:" French Open finalist Juan Carlos Ferrero, who lost only one game in the last two sets as he rallied to beat veteran Alex Corretja 3-6, 6-0, 6-1 in an all-Spanish center-court duel. ***AP***

16 aces key Stevenson win

ZURICH, Switzerland—American qualifier Alexandra Stevenson stunned fifth-seeded Jelena Dokic with 16 aces on Thursday at the US$1.2 million Swisscom Challenge to reach her second quarterfinals in as many weeks. Earlier, seventh-seeded Daniela Hantuchova saved four match points to defeat Russia's Elena Dementieva in a three-hour marathon. The 28th-ranked Stevenson, who reached the quarterfinals at Filderstadt last week before falling to Hantuchova, outlasted the world No. 6 player 7-6 (6), 4-6, 7-5 in two hours, 14 minutes. "It wasn't very good tennis, I had a lot of errors," said Stevenson, who made 19 double faults. "But I pulled it out and that's good. In the third set I was happy to serve well, that was the plan." It was a match marked by repeated lost opportunities for both players. ***AP***

Cua entry named 'Stagfighter'

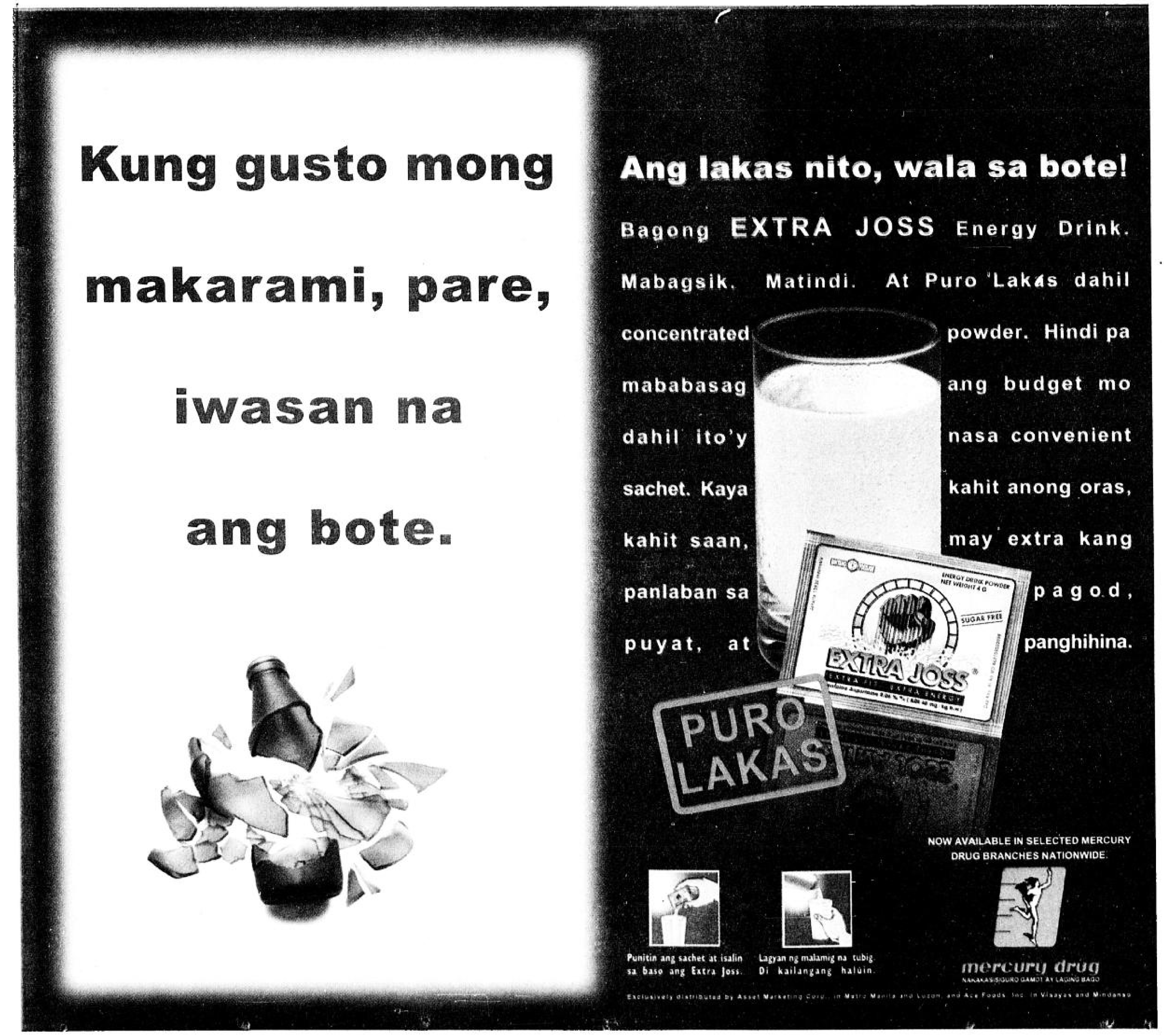
AS EXPECTED, Shio Expressway LCC of Louie Cua emerged Stagfighter of the Year at the conclusion of Stagwars 2002 under the aegis of the National Cockers Association at the Araneta Coliseum. Expressway scored 5-1/2 points in Wednesday's final leg of the NCA 7-Stag Derby, but it was enough to preserve its previous lead and seal the prestigious championship by the proverbial mile. Sto. Cristo Jimafer of Pampanga's cockfighting champions Jun and Rudy Jingco was the solo winner in Wednesday's finals by posting six sizzling points followed by San Luis-JC and Expressway. National Bakbakan 7-Stag wound up third with five points.

Nat'l dancesport meet today

EVERYTHING is set for the 6th National Dancesport Championships under the auspices of the Dancesport Council of the Philippines at 1 p.m. today at the Philsports Arena. Many-time undefeated world professional Latin champions Jukka Haapalainen and Sirpa Suutri of London head the international licensed adjudicators who will conduct workshops, adjudicate and perform a demonstration of the five Latin dances, said DSCP president Becky Garcia. She added that sportsman-businessman Edward Hayco is also in the expanded list of the council's board of directors. Meanwhile, preparations are now in full blast for the staging of the Asia Pacific championships which the International Dancesport Federation and the DSCP are hosting on Nov. 8-10 at the Philsports Arena.

Lina Masters Cup gets going

BOYS' 18-under top seed Irwin de Guzman takes on James Villanueva at 4 p.m. today at the start of the Alberto Lina Masters Cup age-group tennis tournament at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center. Other matches pit No. 2 Allan Agulto against Ralph Barte, Arithmetico Lim against Gerard Reyes and Kyle Dandan against William Murrell. Seeing action in the boys' 16-under class are No. 2Lim against Jarryd Manduriao, No. 3 William Murrell against Russell Arcilla, No. 4 Pablo Olivarez against Bryan Lontok, Johnwill Baldonado against Michael Welchel, Gerard Reyes against Mikoff Manduriao, James Murrell against Ramon Sarmiento and Daniel Macalino against Christian Canlas.



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Tiger 3 off in Disney tilt

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Florida—Jeff Sluman had a bogey-free 63 on Thursday for a three-way share of the lead at the Disney World Golf Classic, another reminder of how far he has come since he first played a tournament next to the Magic Kingdom.

Twenty years ago, Sluman won at Disney on the now-defunct Space Coast Tour. The purse was $100,000, not the $3.7 million it is now.

Tiger Woods was in the first grade.

Still, the Space Coast Tour proved to be a launching pad for Sluman, who went on to earn his PGA Tour card later that year and embark on a career that has included a PGA Championship among his six victories, and earnings over $12.7 million.

Everyone was helped by perfect conditions in the opening round at Disney.

Hidemichi Tanaka of Japan made 10 birdies on the Palm course for a 9-under 63. He and Sluman were joined by Bob Burns, who is 118th on the money list and needs a good week to secure his card.

Scott Hoch was among those at 64, while Stuart Appleby continued his strong play from Las Vegas and had a 65.

Woods, playing for the first time since the Ryder Cup, was in a large group at 66.

"I'll take it," said Woods, who didn't hit the ball particularly well but made enough putts to post his 18th consecutive round at par or better. *AP*

Montgomerie defeats Funk

VIRGINIA WATER, England—There is something about playing Americans that brings the best out of Colin Montgomerie.

Three weeks after leading Europe to its Ryder Cup triumph, Montgomerie on Thursday defeated Fred Funk, the only American in the World Match Play Championship, 3 and 2 in their 36-hole first-round match. Montgomerie now goes against British Open champion Ernie Els.

In the day's other matches, Ireland's Padraig Harrington defeated Canadian Mike Weir 4 and 3 and will face Sergio Garcia in the quarterfinals. Vijay Singh won 1 up over England's Justin Rose, setting up a match against Retief Goosen. *AP*

Unique golfest set at Evercrest

AMERICAN professional golfer Chip Beck, ranked 63rd among the career money leaders in the PGA Tour, once said: "Thoughts of doing something exciting in the game, more extraordinary than the average–that's part of what makes people peak-perform."

With this in mind, The Mentor Group is organizing In Golf We Trust, a unique two-day golfest aimed at enhancing the executive's leadership capacity, seeking to establish the parallelism between golf and leadership using a unique methodology of incorporating learning modules with the actual golf game.

The golfest will be held at the Evercrest Golf Club and Resort on Nov. 14-15.

"The very clear similarities that golf and leadership share in terms of expectations and rewards lend itself to a creative approach of using the game as a learning experience," said Melanie Casipe, the Mentor Group's Canada-based program designer.

Noel Resurreccion, managing director of the Mentor Group, said interested parties may inquire at (632) 372-0377 and (632) 373-7762.

Tan, Dandan shine

SECOND send Joshua Tan Ho and No. 6 Kyle Dandan scored upset wins last Sunday to share closing honors with Joseph Arcilla and Raymond Villarete in the Airfreight 2001 Fedex Cup age-group tennis tournament at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Tan Ho stunned top seed Gerard Michael Ngo, 6-1, 6-2, to capture the boys' 12-under title while Dandan downed No. 1 Jandrick de Castro, 6-2, 6-1, for the boys' 16-under title.

The twin upsets came after favorites Arcilla conquered No. 3 Irwin de Guzman, 6-2, 6-4, to win the boys' 18-under title and Villarete defeated No. 2 Ralph Barte, 1-6, 6-3, 6-4, to pocket the boys' 14-under title.

RACING TIPS

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Race 2—1. Baby Love 2. Del Mar/Time Specialist 3. Test Run

Race 3—1. Security Master 2. Savvy Lad

Race 4—1. Golden Child 2. With Distinction 3. Friendly Venture 4. Fine Offer

Race 5—1. Born Perfect 2. Real Tough/Silakbo 3. Counter Strike 4. Ray Moon

Race 6—1. Expediter 2. Ichiro 3. My Aday

Race 7—1. High Octane 2. twister 3. Success Story 4. Tower of Power 5. Max's Princess

Race 8—1. My Lady Ann 2. Kingair 3. Pride of Mandaue 4. Letshaveaparty

Race 9—1. Adam's Call 2. Dynasty 3. Windlass 4. Mr. Lucas 5. Miggy

Race 10—1. Golden Cat 2. Red Strip 3. Honor Code

Race 11—1. Perfect Gift 2. Spectacular Lady 3. Clarize 4. More Love 5. Peek A Boo

Race 12—1. Hydrogas/Strong Element 2. Precious Janina 3. Inner Wheeler 4. Time and Again

Race 13—1. Mystika 2. Nag-iisang Ikaw/Trick Shot 3. Dynamite Jack 4. Tanging Ikaw 5. Green Leaves 6. Picardy

PACQUIAO (left) with President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.
PDI PHOTO

PACQUIAO FIGHT

Tickets worth ₱3M for MILF, MNLF, NPA

By Al S. Mendoza

THIS one takes the cake.

DUTERTE

PIÑOL

Emphasizing once more the unifying values of sports, organizers of the Pacquiao fight have offered P3 million worth of tickets to the members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, Moro National Liberation Front and the New People's Army.

"This way, we can show to our people that through sports, we can unify this nation if only for one glorifying night of boxing," Gov. Manny Piñol of North Cotabato told this reporter by long distance call yesterday. "As always, I have always believed that sports is for everybody."

Piñol said that Mayor Rudy Duterte has graciously accepted the responsibility of shouldering the cost of 60 tickets for the three groups at P50,000 each (roughly US$1,000).

Duterte's offer means that the MILF, MNLF and NPA will each receive 20 ringside tickets for the fight scheduled on Oct. 26 at the Rizal Memorial College Gym in Davao City.

Also, during Manny Pacquiao's defense of his International Boxing Federation crown (122 pounds) against Thailand's Fahprakorb Rakkiatgym, K-9 dogs will be scattered around the venue to augment the security forces and a PNP contingent for the protection of thousands of fans who are expected to troop to the gym come fight night.

Duterte's peace offering comes in the wake of bombing incidents in the cities of Kidapawan and Zamboanga that killed several innocent people at shopping malls.

"We are of course wary of these new threats to our peace but I'd like to assure our people that peace reigns in Davao City and there's nothing to be afraid of," said Piñol, himself a former boxing promoter who used to write a sports column in a Manila-based national daily. "Mayor Duterte's capability to govern is beyond question."

RP bowlers see action

FRESH from their successful stint in the Busan Asian Games, member of the RP Bowling Team will pit talents against each other in the 6th Chinatrust-SLETBA Open Championship kicking off today, 10 a.m., at the Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall Bowling Center in Cainta.

The tournament, ending on Oct. 28, is expected to be the most competitive ever, with a pot of P50,000 pesos set aside by the organizing Sta. Lucia East Tenpin Bowling Association (SLETBA) to be shared by those who will be rolling a perfect game in this event.

SPORTSTV SPORTSTV SPORTSTV SPORTSTV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

GOLF: LPGA First Union Betsy King Classic at 1 p.m. on ESPN

Senior PGA Allianz Championship at 2 p.m. and 11 p.m.(r) on Star Sports

BOXING: Fight Time on Fox 2002 at 9 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

SOCCER: English Premier Football League at 7 a.m. on Star Sports

Futbol Mundial at 7:30 p.m. on Star Sports

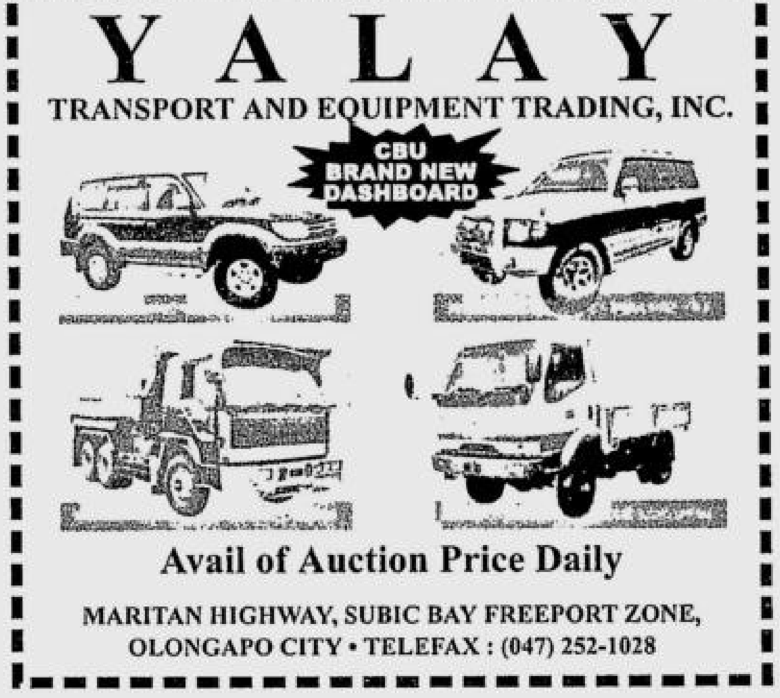
MOTOR SPORTS: International Motorsports News 2002 at 10 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

Chevy Indy 500 at 4 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

Asian Motorsport Review 2002 at 7 p.m. on Star Sports

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1991, Rudy Labares fired a 72 to top the eighth leg of the Philip Morris Golf Classic at the Wack Wack east course. Also today in 1992, Dan delos Santos shot a 70 to rule the final leg of the Philip Morris Golf Classic at the Iloilo course.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METRO

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

SECURITY LESSONS Students of the St. Jude school beside Malacañang get used to the sight of Marines keeping a tight watch at the presidential palace, just one of the many places in the metropolis that are on full alert in the face of terrorist threats.

ERIK ARAZAS

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Manila curfew starts in 30 days

By Jerome Aning

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza yesterday signed into law an ordinance imposing a daily curfew from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. in the capital for all youths aged 17 years old and below.

In a news conference, Atienza said the curfew will be implemented within 30 days. He said barangay officials, who will implement the curfew, will have to undergo orientation.

He said guidelines and other information about the curfew will be disseminated throughout the city.

Parents, the police, teachers, and barangay officials themselves sought the curfew for minors .

The author of the ordinance, Councilor Julio Logarta Jr., said the city government recognizes the youths' right "to enhance and develop their personality through socialization."

MANILA/ A26

Answered prayers

ROJA

HIS STORY story could pass for a Brothers Grimm classic.

Once upon a time, in the province of Masbate, there was a boy who grew up an orphan. He lived with his grandmother, who took care of him and made both ends meet by fishing. She did everything to support the boy until fate and old age took its toll and he was left to fend for himself.

Two months after her death, the boy went to Manila where, after wandering for several days, he sought help from a church. The parish could not support him, and sent him instead to a shelter for the homeless. But the foundation, too, could not support him so he was sent to another home. But he says he got bored and he ran away.

Eventually he came to Tuloy Sa Don Bosco where he found himself with other kids.

ANSWERED/ A32

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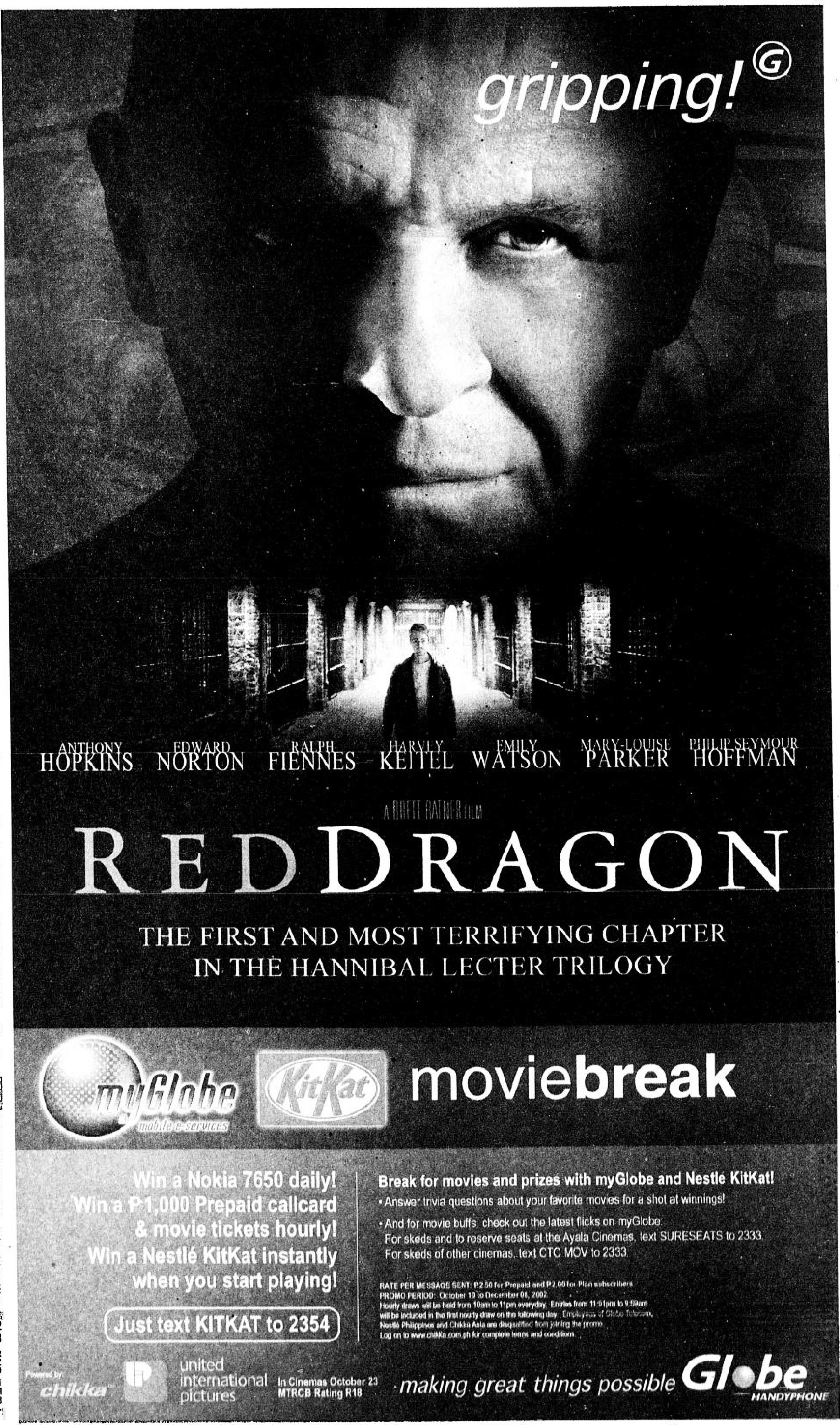

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Carolina's relief a sound decision

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

RELIEVING Lt. Gen. Ernesto Carolina as Southern Command chief was a very sound tactical decision made by President Macapagal-Arroyo as Armed Forces commander-in-chief.

Carolina was one of the President's favorite generals. When I was with GMA last summer during a diving trip to Palawan, I sensed that the President was fond of Carolina by the way she talked about him. When the idle talk drifted to the wives of military generals, the President said that Carolina's wife was a stunning beauty. GMA expressed admiration for the Army general, then commander of a division in Luzon, for his aesthetic tastes.

It must have been difficult for the President to sack her favorite general. That she did shows the kind of leader that she is: she sets aside personal feelings for the common good.

* * *

Carolina was an inefficient commander, given to tactical blunders in fighting the terrorist Abu Sayyaf.

Under his watch, 40 soldiers have died at the hands of the Moro terrorist group.

I'm sure he didn't care about the big number of casualties suffered by his men in the field. He's insensitive to his men's welfare.

* * *

Last month, this writer lambasted Carolina in this corner for his comment about the increasing casualty list.

"We are prepared to inflict more casualties against the Abu Sayyaf and we're ready to absorb losses," said Carolina.

Surely, that uncalled-for comment from their commander demoralized the men in the field.

* * *

A military commander who doesn't care about the welfare of his men doesn't get the complete loyalty and cooperation of his subordinates, in return.

If Carolina were not relieved, more casualties would have been suffered by his men in the field. Soldiers who have low morale don't fight well.

Tama lang na sinipa siya!

* * *

Some senators and congressmen are opposed to the bill that would make every Filipino to carry a national identification card. The national ID system would add teeth to the government's anti-terrorism drive.

What's the fuss about the proposed national ID when most citizens now carry a Social Security ID, a voter's ID, a postal ID and a Philhealth ID?

Why don't they just make one ID out of all those IDs?

* * *

The President did not accept the resignation of Customs Collector Celso Templo of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. She just set aside Templo's resignation letter.

Templo offered to resign after he got a scolding from the President for low collection by his district last Friday during a meeting of all customs collectors and revenue district officers in Malacanang.

Also scolded by the President was Customs Collector Rey Nicolas of the Port of Manila. But Nicolas did not resign.

* * *

My sources in Malacañang said that GMA was impressed by Templo's "sense of delicadeza."

Officials like him are hard to find nowadays, the President supposedly said of Templo.

It was just as well Ms Arroyo did not accept Templo's resignation. He is a very hardworking and efficient collector. His hair has turned gray as a result of too much work.

The reason for the low tariff collection in Templo's district is the current economic crunch. Importers who use Naia as their port of entry have not been bringing goods like they used to. Therefore, collection is low since there are very few goods to impose tariff on.

* * *

As if his problem of being extradited is not enough, Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez is facing another problem albeit a minor one.

A heart specialist, Dr. Miguel R. S. Cornejo, is demanding that the controversial congressman pay for the medicines he had ordered from him.

Cornejo said that he used his American Express credit card in paying for the importation of medication used for "preventive maintenance against the heart, cerebral and hardening, clogging of the blood vessels and premature ageing." The medicines were ordered from Switzerland, the doctor said.

* * *

Cornejo said the congressman and his friends ordered from him the medicines that cost US$25,000, including freight.

"Please honor your gentleman's promise to help me settle my account with Amexco for the medicines that you ordered from me," the doctor pleaded with Jimenez in a letter.

Mr. Congressman, paying your debt is a sign that you are not a *balasubas*.

* * *

Jimenez needs those medications now more than ever, according to Cornejo.

The doctor said that given the stress and tension that Jimenez is going through, he might have a heart attack.

So, Mr. Congressman, buy the medicines so you will live to see the inside of a US federal prison. Joke only!

NCRPO: Cops overworked, overstressed due to threats

By Alcuin Papa

THE NATIONAL Capital Region Police Office admitted yesterday that policemen in Metro Manila are "overworked and overstressed" following the rash of bomb threats.

However, the NCRPO chief, Deputy Director Gen. Reynaldo Velasco, quickly added that the Metro policemen "are used to the pressure."

"We're used to that," he said in a news conference yesterday. "The police are willing to sacrifice for the sake of the people but we ask the public to understand that they cannot expect the presence of cops in every corner of the metropolis. What is vital is the neutralization of these terrorists through the vigilance of both citizenry and the police."

He said that breaks and leaves of all policemen in the city have been cancelled to maximize police deployment.

He admitted that Metro Manila lacks police personnel and that the NCRPO has not deployed additional men.

But he said he has tasked policemen to maximize their deployment, particularly in vital installations like oil depots, telecommunication towers, government agencies, foreign embassies, public transportation systems, shopping malls and other possible targets of terrorist attacks.

Velasco said the NCRPO is expecting the end of the training of about 700 policemen by the end of November and 500 by the end of December. Once they graduate from the training, the police trainees will be deployed to different police districts and stations in the city.

"We could add around 30 to 50 policemen to vital police stations in the city," Velasco said.

At present, about 15,000 policemen are assigned to the NCRPO to protect Metro Manila's population of 10 million people.

Fernando: Wait and see

By Leila B. Salaverria and Christian V. Esguerra

WAIT and see.

This is what Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando would rather do: Wait for the outcome of the house bill filed by Parañaque Rep. Eduardo Zialcita, which seeks to abolish the Toll Regulatory Board and to transfer its powers to the MMDA, and see if he would rejoice or not at the outcome.

Right now, Fernando refused to comment on the bill, which was filed because of the TRB's alleged failure to curb the skyrocketing tolls at the North and South Luzon Tollways and the Skyway system.

"Let them decide first," Fernando told the INQUIRER.

He said he would rather remain quiet about the matter since it might not be wise for him to comment on the proposal.

But MMDA Traffic Director Angelito Vergel de Dios said that if Zialcita's bill were passed, then corresponding resources must be given to the MMDA since it would absorb TRB's duties, powers and functions, and it already has its hands full.

"If plans push through, then we must be given additional personnel and budget," Vergel de Dios said. "We would need that."

He said all of the MMDA's current resources are being fully used in numerous duties, including the management of Metro Manila's flood problem, which was recently transferred from the DPWH to the MMDA.

But TRB Chair Jaime Dumlao yesterday warned of complications and public inconvenience if the TRB is abolished and its functions transferred to the MMDA.

"I don't know how Congress would go about the transfer," said Dumlao. "But for sure there will be a lot of problems if that happens."

He explained that the transfer would trigger problems on jurisdiction since the MMDA's functions are limited to Metro Manila.

"Expressways extend up to the provinces so what will happen to portions not located in Metro Manila?" Dumlao asked.

In his bill, Zialcita proposed that the Department of Public Works and Highways or a new agency handle provincial portions of tollways.

Zialcita called for TRB's abolition after the Supreme Court dismissed his petition against the provisional increase granted to the Philippine National Construction Corp. and the PNCC Skyway Corp.

He said the TRB arbitrarily approved the increase without conducting any public hearing last December. The two-round provisional increase took effect in January and July.

Dumlao said the increase was legal since it was contained in the contract for the building of the expressways and the Skyway system.

"Under the contract, the project proponent is entitled to an increase if the peso devaluates by more than 10 percent," he said.

"Actually, the request was for a 300-percent increase but we approved an increase which was less than 100 percent."

BARANGAY LEAGUE

DILG representative 'breaking the law'

By Jerome Aning

THE DILG representative in Manila is "breaking the law and sowing confusion" through her "active personal involvement" in the Oct. 21 election of barangay league officers, an exercise that the city's "renegade" barangay chairs are supporting.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza's spokesman Armand Sebastian on Wednesday reacted to the claim of DILG-Manila Director Rhodora Licuna that she is just following the law and her superiors in supporting the Oct. 21 exercise.

"Her very personal interest in this matter and her close personal association with the league's previous officials make her motives highly suspected," Sebastian told the INQUIRER.

He said Atienza has been in "close consultation" with DILG Secretary Jose Lina, who assured the mayor that the department has nothing to do with the Oct. 21 election.

On Sept. 15, Manila held its own election of barangay league president using the new rules which the city council formulated and enacted into law as Ordinance No. 8039.

Five of Manila's six congressmen, including the controversial Mark Jimenez, and the city's opposition politicians have gone against the city administration and have thrown their support behind the Oct. 21 exercise.

ATIENZA

Natalio Beltran III, who maintains he is the incumbent president of the league and sectoral representative in the city council, said congressmen Jimenez, Harry Angping, Jaime Lopez, Joey Hizon and Ernesto Nieva, Vice Mayor Danny Lacuna and the opposition councilors have pledged their support for the Oct. 21 election.

Beltran was "replaced" as league president and councilor by Carlos Castañeda in an election held on Sept. 15 based on the city council's newly formulated procedures.

Atienza has recognized Castañeda whom the majority councilors later admitted to the city council.

Beltran said that Monday's exercise is the "real one" because it will be held "in compliance and conformity" with the Local Government Code of 1991.

He said the DILG, the Commission on Elections and the National Liga ng mga Barangay recognize the Oct. 21 activity.

Beltran's faction believed that the Sept. 15 election was illegal because it violated the Code's provision that the league president must be voted at large.

Under the new ordinance, the city league president must be chosen among six district chapter presidents who were elected by the barangay chairs in each of the city's six districts.

Beltran said he is leaving the legal questions to two city regional trial courts and the Supreme Court.

In an Oct. 11 letter to the chairs, Beltran vehemently denied that the cases have been junked and he accused the mayor of "spreading lies and disinformation."

Atienza said more than 95 percent of the city's 897 barangay chiefs participated in the Sept. 15 election.

But the "renegades" held a general assembly on Sept. 27 to prepare for the Oct. 21 election, and that session was attended by 455 chairs or more than half of the barangay heads in the city.

A source at city hall told the INQUIRER that the mayor and his allies in the council have been meeting the barangay chiefs in batches.

On Oct. 3, the mayor asked Lina to sack Licudine for failing to assist in and refusing to recognize the Sept. 15 league election in the city.

On Tuesday, Licudine denied she was spurred on by personal motives when she threw her support behind the Oct. 21 election. She said she is just following the law and her superiors.

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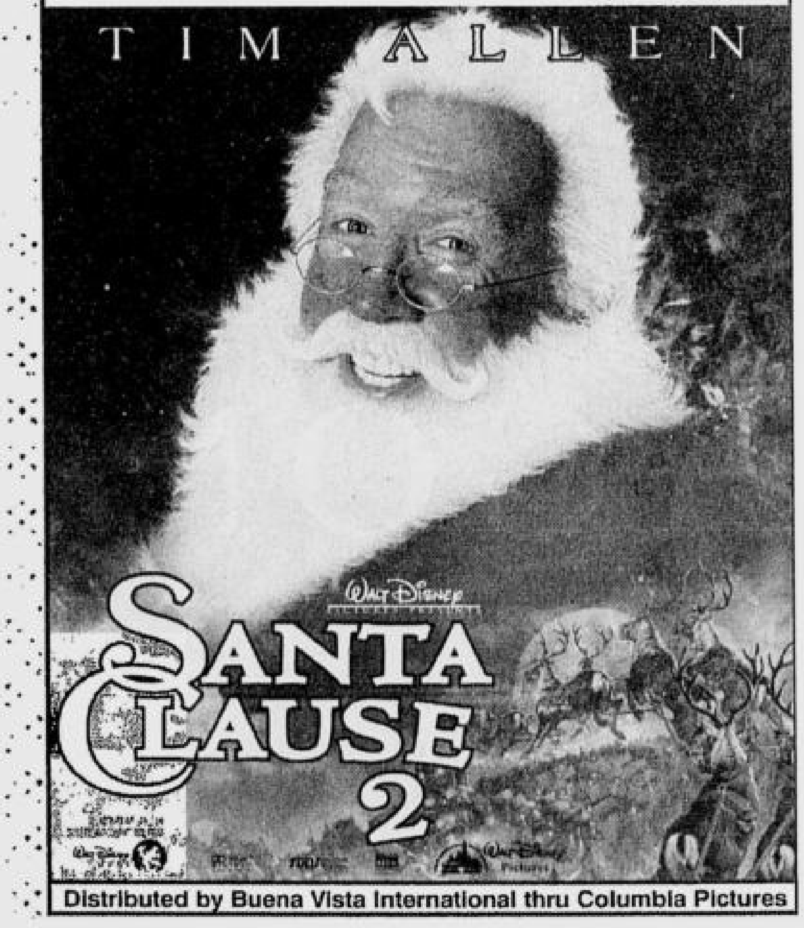

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Manila curfew starts in 30 days

From page A25

He said he just hopes to prevent "untoward incidents" from happening to minors in the wee hours.

The ordinance says minors may secure "passes" from their barangay leaders to be exempted from the curfew.

Minors accompanied by their parents, guardians or other elders of legal age, are exempt, as well as night school or working students whose schedules require them to be on the streets or outside their residences beyond 10 p.m.

Also exempted are those running lawful errands such as buying medicines or using phones for emergency calls.

According to the ordinance, all youths apprehended for violating the curfew must not be held for more than two hours. If the offender is not a Manila resident, he or she should not be held for more than six hours.

If the minor is homeless or abandoned, he or she must be turned over to the city's social welfare department within 12 hours.

The ordinance provides for the creation of a barangay curfew advisory board that will determine and mete out sanctions for first- and second-time offenders, and recommend the filing of charges against third-time offenders.

The board will be composed of the barangay chair and two watchmen. The barangay secretary will record the identities of the offenders, their ages, addresses, birthday, and the time and place of apprehension.

If the offender is 9 years old or below, the sanction will be limited to a reprimand. For those 9 to 15 years old, a reprimand and an admonition to the offender's parents or guardians will be given.

For those aged 15 to 17, first time offenders will be asked to make a written pledge to render community service for not more than two hours.

Second-time offenders, will be warned and their community service increased to four hours.

Third-time offenders will be taken to the city prosecutor's office and charged.

If found guilty, the violator may be sentenced to 10 days in jail, fined P2,000, or both.

Those apprehended by the police must be referred to their barangay board within six hours.

If the youth is not a resident of Manila, he should be presented within three hours to the chair of the barangay where he was caught.

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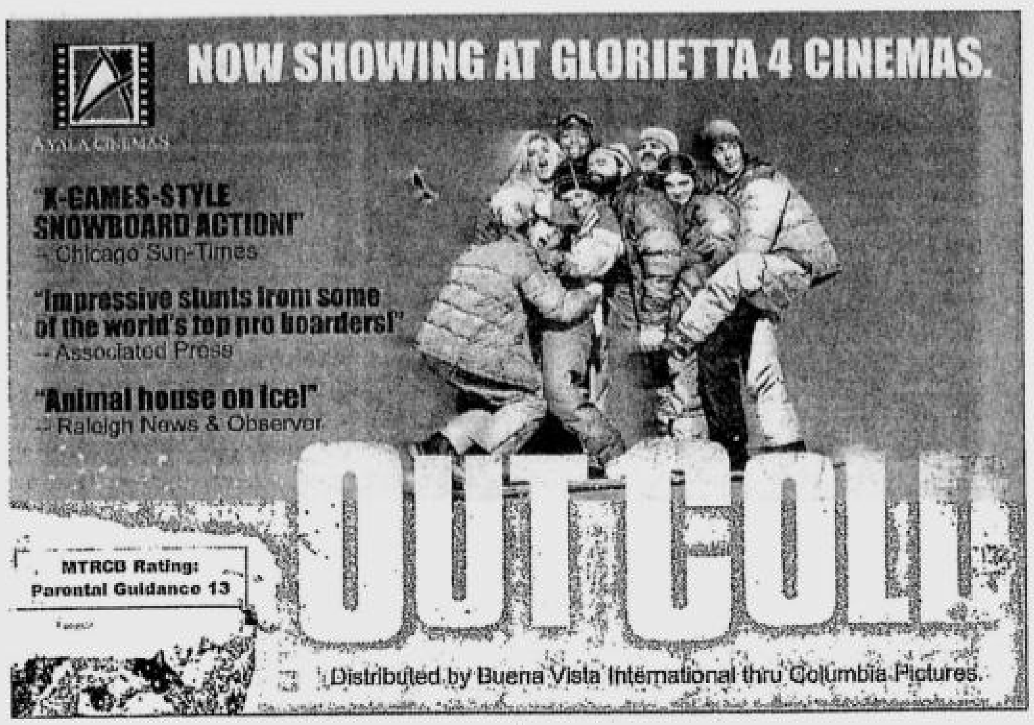
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8	TUXEDO

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6	TOUCH
7	MR DEEDS

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2	MASIKIP MAINIT . .
3	ROAD TO PERDITION

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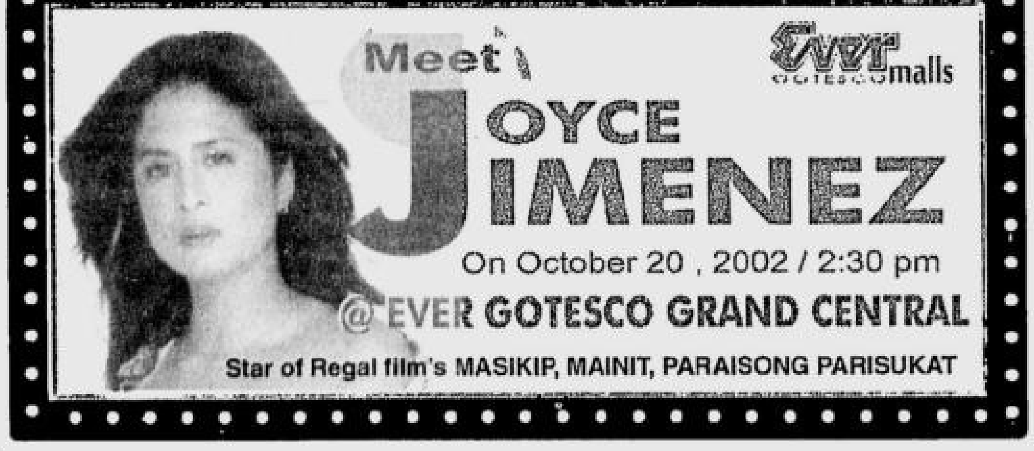
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11	9 MORNINGS
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7	POSSESSION
8	TUXEDO

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2	MR. DEEDS
3	BALLISTIC
4	9 MORNINGS
5	PROSTI
6	FRAILTY
7	PARAISONG PARISUKAT
8	TUXEDO
9	BESTMAN
10	THE TOUCH

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3	ENOUGH
4	VOODOO
5	LOLLIPOP
6	PROSTI
7	9 MORNINGS
8	TUXEDO

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5	THE ROOKIE
6	9 MORNINGS
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3	9 MORNINGS
4	PARAISONG PARISUKAT

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7	MR. DEEDS
8	9 MORNINGS

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3	MR. DEEDS
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5	BESTMAN
6	9 MORNINGS

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HANDYPHONE

Truckers to launch protest moves

By Christian V. Esguerra

AN ALLIANCE of truckers is set to give Muntinlupa officials a "reality check" through a series of massive protest actions against the truck ban at the busy Alabang interchange starting this week.

The protest will culminate in a caravan of about 100 18-wheelers from the Port Area in Manila to the Alabang interchange, said Ricky Papa, chair of the Alliance of Concerned Truck Owners and Organizations.

"We hope to bring the Muntinlupa government back to the reality (it) refused to recognize—that any burden (on) the trucking industry is a burden on the national economy," Papa said.

City officials have prohibited trucks from using the Alabang interchange from 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily to help ease traffic in the area.

The interchange became a bottleneck for vehicles coming from the south after the Philippine National Construction Corp. banned trucks weighing more than 2,000 tons on the shaky viaduct.

Papa said the truck ban gave truckers barely six hours to deliver goods from the piers to warehouses in southern Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

Among the major manufacturers based in Southern Luzon are Nestle Philippines, San Miguel Corp., Asia Brewery, James Hardy, Heinz, Concepcion Industries, and Pepsi and Coca-Cola, according to Papa.

"Delay in the flow of goods translates to higher costs of almost all basic commodities," he said. "Delay in the flow of goods limits the over-all national economic productivity."

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MTRCB RATING: P13
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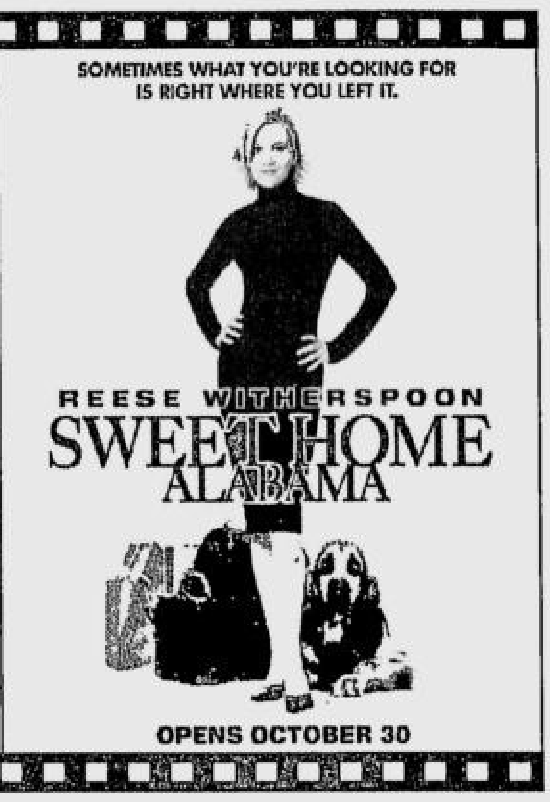

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REESE WITHERSPOON
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1 BALLISTIC ECKS vs. SEVER 2 9 MORNINGS 3 9 MORNINGS 4 MASIKIP MAINIT... PARAISONG PARISUKAT	1 THE TUXEDO 2 9 MORNINGS 3 MR. DEEDS 12:20, 2:40, 5:00 7:20, 9:40, 12:00 4 OUT COLD (EXCLUSIVE) 5 THE TOUCH 6 BALLISTIC: ECKS VS. SEVER 7 POSSESSION	1 THE TOUCH 4 THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST (EXCLUSIVE) 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30 MARTIN NIEVERA BACK ONSTAGE (THE REPEAT) OCT. 18-19, 25-26	MR. DEEDS 11:30, 1:50, 4:10, 6:30, 8:50, 11:10 BALLISTIC: ECKS VS. SEVER 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:25, 11:30 BLOODWORK 11:00, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30 9 MORNINGS 11:30, 1:50, 4:10, 6:30, 8:50, 11:10 THE TUXEDO 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15, 11:30	1 BALLISTIC: ECKS VS. SEVER 2 9 MORNINGS 3 POSSESSION 4 THE TUXEDO 5 MR. DEEDS

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The Ayala Malls Events
THIS WEEK'S EVENTS
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Makati - Glorietta
October 31
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Trick or Treat for Kids, 1-4 pm
Makati - Greenbelt Park
October 31, 10 pm
Green Lounge Halloween Ball
Alabang
October 30, 1-4 pm
Halloween Trick or Treat for Kids
October 31, 6 pm Town Plaza
Halloween Party featuring Southborder
Cebu
October 31 [illegible] Activity Center
Trick or Treat for Kids [illegible]
October 30 & 31, 6 pm
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...together.
Isang wish come true.
Jeannie Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang?
Tanya Garcia Asi Taulava
DIRECTED BY IKE JARLEGO, JR.
VIVA FILMS Rexona REV-X LEONARDO
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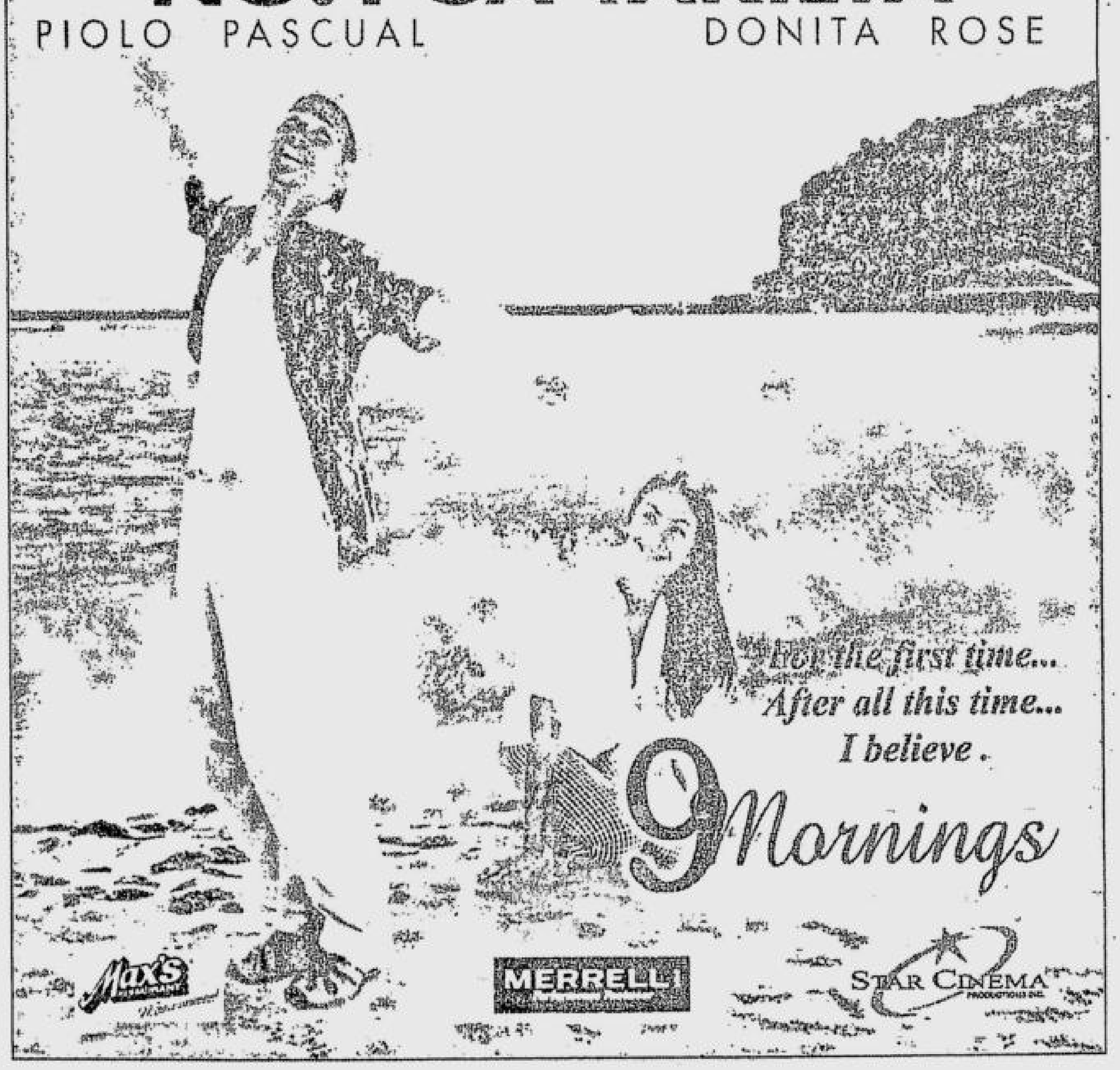

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Black Friday for court employees

By Philip C. Tubeza and Agnes E. Donato

BLACK was the color of the day yesterday for court employees across the nation.

In Manila, about 500 court officers and employees yesterday wore black shirts to protest their exclusion from the proposed salary increase of judiciary members and held a prayer rally at the Bonifacio Shrine.

In Quezon City, employees of the regional and metropolitan trial courts, also clad in black shirts, held a brief prayer rally at the Hall of Justice during their lunch break.

The Philippine Association of Court Employees (Pace) led the nationwide protests against House Bill No. 5178, which proposes a salary increase for justices, judges, and lawyer-members of the courts.

But the bill "isolates and intentionally neglects more than 80 percent of our workers in the judiciary," according to Pace.

Employees from the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Sharia courts, and courts from Caloocan, Makati, Pasig, Marikina, Las Piñas, Quezon City, and Manila went on leave and attended yesterday's prayer rally, said Pace.

There were also protests in Tacloban, Calamba, Laguna, and Cabanatuan City.

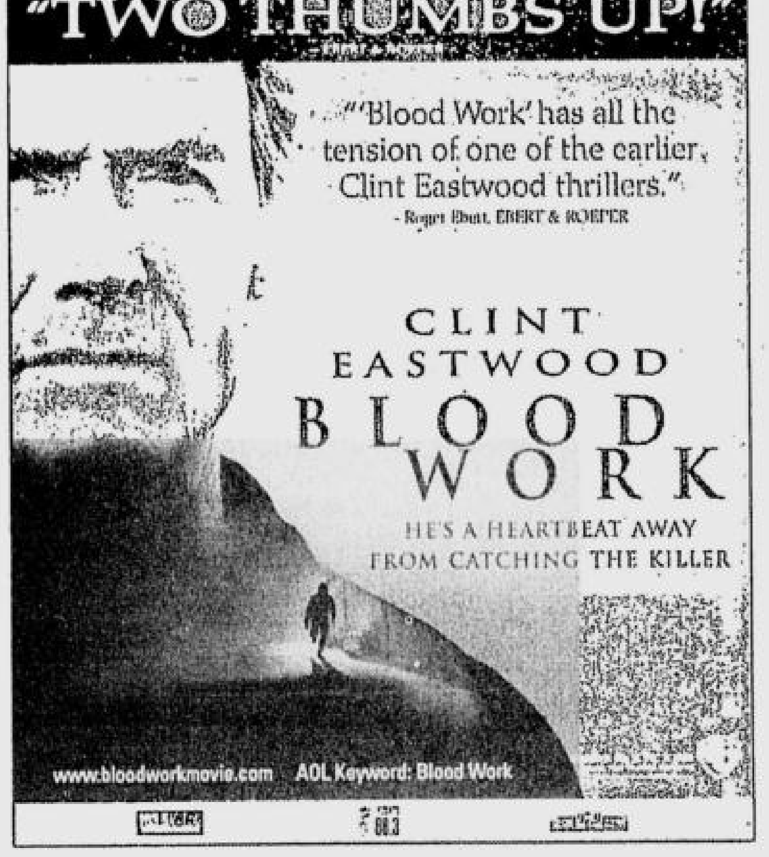
Lawyer Raymund Tan, Pace-Manila head, said the non-lawyer rank-and-file members are especially concerned since the funds for the increase would be taken from the Judiciary Development Fund.

"In effect, the JDF share presently bestowed on the rank-and-file will be taken away from them and the same will be used to finance the increased allowance of judiciary positions requiring membership in the Philippine Bar," said Pace.

NOW SHOWING !

MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

"TWO THUMBS UP!"


"'Blood Work' has all the tension of one of the earlier Clint Eastwood thrillers."
- Roger Ebert, EBERT & ROEPER
CLINT EASTWOOD
BLOOD WORK
HE'S A HEARTBEAT AWAY FROM CATCHING THE KILLER
www.bloodworkmovie.com
AOL Keyword: Blood Work

NOW SHOWING !

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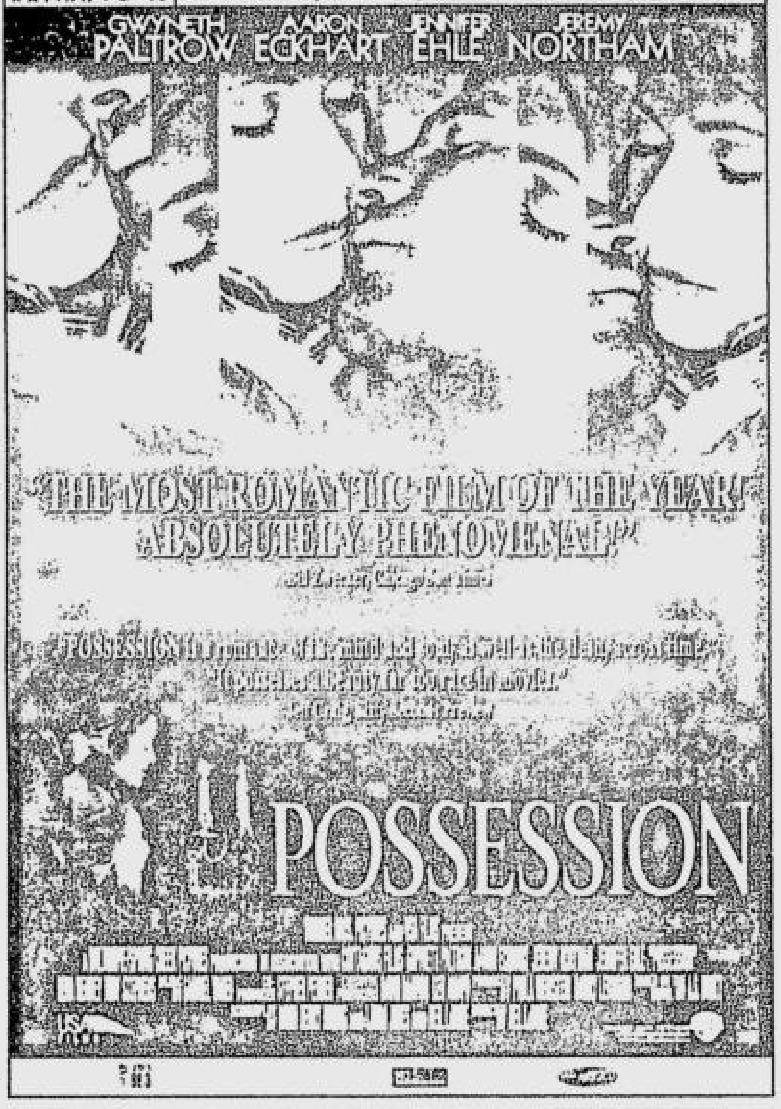

FALL IN LOVE WITH AMERICA'S NEWEST SWEETHEART
OPENS OCTOBER 30 !

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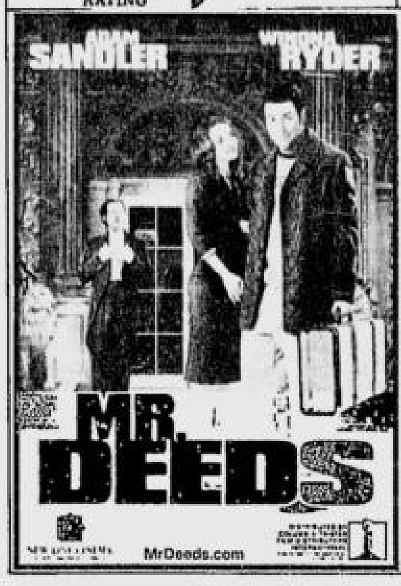
You Think You've Found True Love? Well, Think Again.

REESE WITHERSPOON
SWEET HOME ALABAMA
Touchstone Pictures

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

MTRCB RATING PG-13



Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

Laugh, fall in love !
SECOND WEEK

Adam Sandler is Longfellow Deeds, a lovable small-town guy who runs a pizzeria and writes greeting-card poems.

When he turns out to be the sole heir of a multi-billionaire, he moves to New York City where greedy businessmen try to take over the media empire he inherited.

Babe (WINONA RYDER), a tabloid reporter posing as a small-town girl to get the inside story, discovers Deeds' sincerity and big heart, and finds herself falling for him.

After *The Wedding Singer* and *Big Daddy*, Adam Sandler is back as the clumsy, sweet guy who gets the girl in *Mr. Deeds*.

It's the most fun you'll have on a date movie!

BRING A DATE, the laughs are on MR. DEEDS.

AYALA CINEMAS

"TWO THUMBS UP!"
— Ebert & Rouper

"COLIN FIRTH IS A DELIGHT & REESE WITHERSPOON ADDS SPARKLE!"
— Rollingstone

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST

RUPERT EVERETT · COLIN FIRTH · FRANCIS O'CONNOR · REESE WITHERSPOON · JUDI DENCH

Directed by Oliver Parker

Based on a play by Oscar Wilde

ArtFilm Greenbelt 1
THE COFFEE CLUB

NOW SHOWING
Only at ARTFILM GREENBELT 1

Two young gentlemen (Rupert Everott & Colin Firth) living in 1890s England use the same pseudonym ("Earnest") on the sly, which is fine until they both fall in love with women using that name, which leads to a comedy of mistaken identities...

MTRCB Rating: General Patronage (G)

NOKIA SKYFILMS INQUIRER

Instituto Cervantes · ¡FIESTA! · AYALA CINEMAS · ArtFilm Greenbelt 1

Spanish Festival for Culture and Arts Films
OCTOBER 20 - 26, 2002 ONLY AT ARTFILM - GREENBELT 1

La ardilla roja *Cast: Emma Suarez, Nancho Novo, Maria Barranco Directed by: Julio Medem.* Jota, a depressed former pop star, witnessed an accident while contemplating suicide. He rushed the young woman to a hospital only to discover that she has lost her memory because of the accident. By now, Jota was more than a little enamoured by the victim, "christens" as Liza, his live-in lover for 4 years. he then proceeded to create a new identity for her weaving in half-truths while trying to unravel Liza's real identity.

Bwana *Cast: Andres Pajares, Maria Barranco, Emilio Buale Director: Imanol Uribe.* Buwana, an excellent social commentary about racism in Spain, opened the 1996 Miami Hispanic Film Festival to critical acclaim. It tells of the story of Antonio, a taxi driver, who takes his family on an afternoon beach-combing excursion, only to stumble upon illegal African immigrants in search of a better life in Spain. A series of bizarre events entangle the characters' lives, completely changing their perceptions of each other.

Goya en Burdeos *Cast: Francisco Rabal, Jose Coronado, Maribel Verdu, Eulalia Ramon Director: Carlos Saura.* Exiled for 82 years together with his 2 lovers, Goya spent his twilight years telling his daughter about the events that marked his life- a life marked by turbulent passions, fame, fortune and political conspiracies.

Solas *Cast: Anna Fernandez, Maria Gallana, Carlos Alvarez-Novoa Director: Benito Zambrano.* Circumstances force a mother and daughter to live together in an untidy flat in a poor troubled neighborhood in Sevilla. In each other's company, both emotionally and financially-troubled women have to face their demons and make life-altering decisions: Does mother stay with her drunkard husband who continually beats her up or she sever her ties with him and start a new life? Does Maria keeps her baby by a man who never wanted it in the first place? The mother uses gentle persuation to prove to Maria and their anti-social neighbor to prove their point: That live is the only thing that can help them get their lives dignity.

Tesis *Cast: Ana Torrent, Fele Martinez, Eduardo Noriega Director: Alejandro Amenabar.* University tudent Angela is working on her thesis-a look at violence in the media. What happens to her is something out of a 40s hollywood film noir: She finds her thesis advisor dead after watching a videotape she had requested for; She and her friend, Chema, discovers that they have stumble upon a video of a real-life murder-that of a fellow university student who had disappeared a year ago under mysterious circumstances. Soo., and despite their reluctance to get involved, the two find themselves trying to track down the killers and getting hunted down as they get closer to uncovering the truth.

Retrato de mujer con hombre al fondo *Cast: Paulina Galvez, Bruno Squarcia, Myriam Merzeles, Pedro Miguel Mrtinez. Director: Manane Rodriguez.* There is s little bit 35-year-old Cristina in all of us. A string of faded relashionships has made the successful lawyer come to the conclusion that love in nothing but a permanent source of pain. She decides to forego the emotional roller coaster that comes when one opens oneself up to love and devotes herself completely to something she has control over--proffesional life. For once, she is in "complete control" of herself; A succesful job, she has financial freedom and she has light, amorous adventures. She bolts at the first sign of emotional attachement. However, her emotional bravado started to crumble when she unexpectedly falls in love.

El abuelo *Cast: Fernando Fernan-Gomez, Rafael Alfonso, Cayetana Guillen Cuervo, Agustin Gonzales. Director: Jose Luis Garci.* Don Rodrigo de Arista-Ptesdad, Count of Albrit, returns to spain after staying in the U.S. with the purpose of uncovering his son's great secret. His son died, leaving him a note stating that one of his 2 grand daughters is a bastard. Upon his return, he discovers the town's resentment towards him and his family. And the importance of a family's ability to stand together in times of difficulties. A fascinating story of family ties and honor set during the time of gold rush and pastoral setting of rural Spain.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSE
MIRAMAR	MAPUPULANG ROSAS / KILLING ME SOFTLY
ODEON	ECK AND SAVE
ODEON-2	KARTA ALAS / NAKED NIGHTS
ROBEN	LOLLIPOP
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	HIGH CRIME / JUST VISITING
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	LOLLIPOP
REMAR	LOLLIPOP
REMAR-2	HUBAD NA MULTO
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	9 MORNINGS
B	MASIKIPT AT MAINIT
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	BLOOD WORK
CINEMA-2	MR DEEDS
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	9 MORNINGS
CINEMA-2	LOLLIPOP
CINEMA-3	FRAILTY
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BLOODWORK
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	[illegible]
CINEMA-6	BLODY RELATIONSHIP
CINEMA-7	PARAISONG PARASUKAT
CINEMA-8	'O'
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TUXEDO
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BALLISTIC
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	MR DEEDS
CINEMA-12	9 MORNINGS
CINEMA-14	PARAISONG PARASUKAT
CINEMA-15	BESTMAN
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	BESTMAN
CINEMA 2	ENOUGH
CINEMA 3	PROSTI
CINEMA 4	ROAD TO PERDITION
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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9 MORNINGS
11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 10:00
GP

CINEMA 2
MR. DEEDS
12:15, 2:25, 4:35 6:45, 8:55
P 13

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BALLISTIC P13 10:40,12:50,3:00, 5:10,7:20,9:30	TUXEDO P13 1:30,3:35,5:40, 7:45,9:50	BALLISTIC P13 11:40,1:50,4:00, 6:10,8:20,10:30

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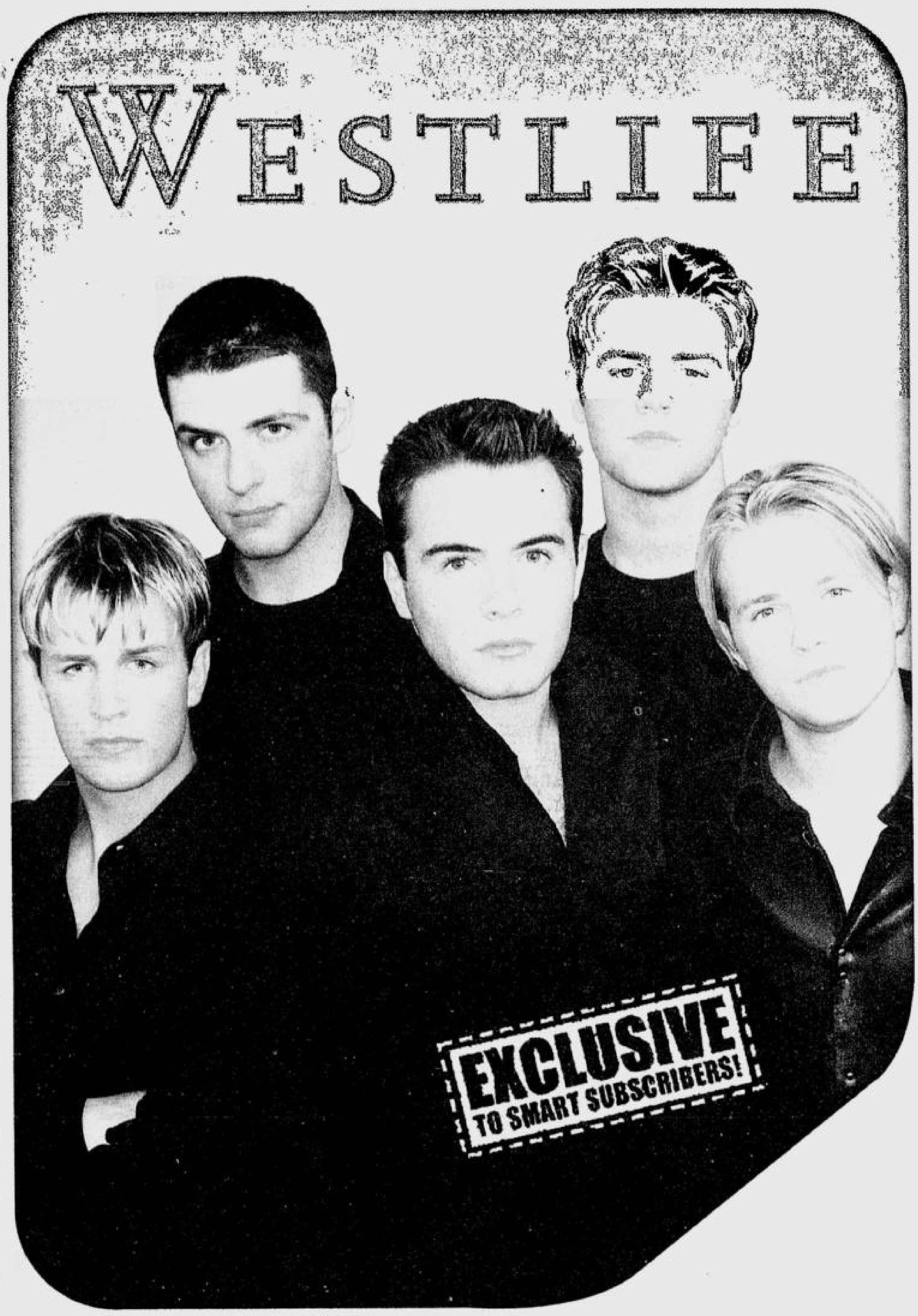

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- **If I Let You Go**
  keyword: ***ifiletugo***
- **Evergreen**
  keyword: **evergreen**

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SMART MUSIC LINK

Take the Westlife Test for a chance win a digital camera, a CD, or a day with the band!

SMART *Simply Amazing!*

When you join the game, you'll be sent five daily questions about the band and their music. All you need to do is answer True or False. As the questions become harder, the point values increase. The more points you earn, the more chances of watching the band live in concert* on Oct. 29! Promo is from Oct. 5 to Oct. 28, 2002.

To register to Music Link:	Key in **MUSIC** and send to **209**
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To answer:	Key in **TRUE** or **FALSE** and send to **209**
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*Westlife Live in Kuala Lumpur. Prize includes plane fare and hotel accommodations for two, plus meet & greet session and fun day with the band. Trip is from Oct. 28 - 31, 2002.

For questions, comments, or concerns, you may call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111, send a text message to 888 (P1.00 per message sent in excess of the FREE TEXT allocation), e-mail us at customercare@smart.com.ph, or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you.

Westlife Unbreakable: The Greatest Hits, coming on Oct. 28, 2002.

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ROJA blows his trumpet.

Answered prayers

From page A25

Today, six years later, Joseph "Jo" Roja, 20, considers Tuloy sa Don Bosco Street Children Village in Alabang, Muntinlupa his home.

He says Tuloy has made him a better person. *"Dati sobrang yabang ko at saka ang dalás kong makipag-away,"* he recalls. *"Pero matiyaga pa rin akong binago ng* Tuloy Foundation *para maituwid ko ang lahat ng mali ko* (I used to be arrogant and often fought with other kids. But Tuloy Foundation has been patient enough to help me correct my mistakes)."

He says the Tuloy foundation also brought him closer to God. *"Yun ang unang natutunan ko rito, ang maging malapit sa Diyos* (That's the first thing I learned here, to be closer to God)," Jo shares.

The foundation helped Jo finish high school, which prepared him to take a vocational course in technology.

Tuloy sa Don Bosco Foundation also developed Jo's ear for music. And he gives the credit to his music teacher, Celso Banan, who patiently trained him and other similarly inclined children.

For four years now, Jo has been an active member of the foundation's brass band where he plays the trumpet.

"I also know how to play the sax. *Gusto ko talagang maging* music conductor *balang araw,* (I really want to become a music conductor someday)," says Jo, who is an avid fan of Ryan Cayabyab. *"Gusto kong makapanood ng buong orchestra na nagpe*-perform (I want to watch a whole orchestra perform)."

Jo's fairy godmother must have heard his prayers. Last night, Jo was one of the 100 students that Citigroup foundation sent to the Cultural Center of the Philippines to watch Lorin Mazzel and the rest of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra perform.

A few days before the concert, he said, "I am really excited. I don't even know what to wear. Will it be formal?"

These days, Jo is busy reviewing for his entrance exam next year in one of the state universities where he plans to take up music.

"Gusto ko talagang maging conductor," he says. "Every time I listen to music, I listen for the faintest note unlike the others who listen to the loudest. For me, the faintest note should be the focus.

"It's like God's calling, faint and usually not given much attention. But without it, the music is not complete. Just like in life."

With the support of the Tuloy sa Don Bosco Foundation and the Citigroup Foundation, Jo's chances at a happy life are getting brighter.

FREE THERAPY
Alumni of the University of the Philippines College of Allied Medical Professions (UP-CAMP) are holding their second free clinic, called "Thera-Free: Libreng Therapy para sa Pilipino," this Sunday in clinics and centers nationwide. In the first Thera-Free, held on Oct. 6, almost 200 patients were treated free of charge from all over the country, most of them receiving treatment for the very first time. A total of 305 therapy sessions were given for speech, occupational and physical therapy. Call Sally at 853-0358 for details and requirements.

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BUSINESS

Editor **Raul O. Marcelo** ◎ *Assistant Editor* **Corrie S. Narisma**

FUEL REBATES

August imports surged 22.4% to $3.16B

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE CONTINUED surge in the shipment of electronic inputs fueled a 22.4-percent rise in the country's imports in August from a year ago, indicating a sustained rebound in export earnings in the months ahead.

The National Statistics Office yesterday reported that the country's import bill hit $3.16 billion in August, up from $2.58 billion in the same period last year, boosted largely by the 87.5-percent expansion in payments for electronics and components which accounted for about a third of the total bill.

From January to August this year, exports have increased by 7.8 percent to $22.85 billion from a year ago, while imports rose by 7.8 percent to $22.11, yielding an eight-month trade surplus of $740 million.

Payments for raw materials and intermediate goods, consisting of unprocessed raw materials and semi-processed raw materials including electronic inputs, had a 41.8-percent share of the total bill.

On the other hand, capital goods, which comprised 40.1 percent of the total bill, rose by 33.1 percent, led by telecommunication equipment and electrical machinery.

Purchases of office and electronic data processing machines ranked second to electronic inputs with a 9.9-percent share, rising by 73.9 percent from last year.

Expenditures for industrial machinery and equipment likewise went up by 25.8 percent, contributing 5 percent to total bill.

Meanwhile, imports of mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials declined by 27.8 percent.

Purchases of consumer goods likewise increased by 4.7 percent, comprising 7.5 percent of the total bill.

"It shows that the improvement in export earnings will continue, This shows at least one bright spot in the Philippine economy," Eagle Equities president Joseph Roxas said.

However, he said the data indicated that the Philippine industrial sector was still highly dependent on electronics which, in turn, was vulnerable to global risks.

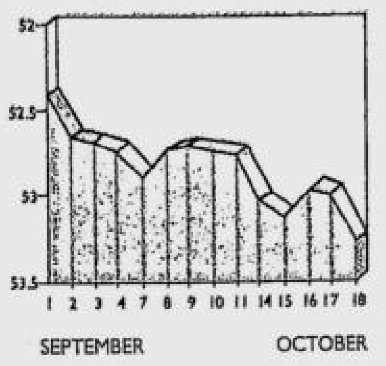
Last year, the country's export earnings contracted by 15 percent from a year ago due to the US-led economic slowdown.

Japan cornered 21 percent of the total import bill, 27.4 percent higher than a year ago, while the United States ranked second with a 20-percent share.

The other top sources of imports were South Korea, Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Malaysia, People's Republic of China, Thailand and Saudi Arabia.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 53.29= $1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 18, 2002

¥ 125.32= $1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 18, 2002

GOLD: $311.10-311.60

per ounce Hong Kong, Oct. 18, 2002

CURRENCIES

Oct. 18, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.029760	1.000000	52.857000
Japan	Yen	0.008244	0.008006	0.423200
United Kingdom	Pound	1.597570	1.551400	82.002300
Hongkong	Dollar	0.132036	0.128220	6.777300
Switzerland	Franc	0.681013	0.661332	34.956000
Canada	Dollar	0.655773	0.636821	33.660400
Singapore	Dollar	0.576476	0.559816	29.590200
Australia	Dollar	0.566580	0.550206	29.082200
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.731676	2.652731	140.215400
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.274588	0.266652	14.094400
Brunei	Dollar	0.574868	0.558254	29.507600
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000112	0.000109	0.005800
Thailand	Baht	0.023592	0.022910	1.211000
UAE	Dirham	0.280382	0.272279	14.391900
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.971100	51.329400
Argentina	Peso	0.290073	0.281690	14.889300
Brazil	REAL	0.266088	0.258398	13.658100
Denmark	Kroner	0.134582	0.130693	6.908000
India	Rupee	0.021311	0.020695	1.093900
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.271026	0.263193	13.911600
Mexico	New Peso	0.103156	0.100175	5.294900
New Zealand	Dollar	0.495100	0.480792	25.413200
Norway	Kroner	0.134612	0.130722	6.909600
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017483	0.016978	0.897400
South Africa	Rand	0.099965	0.097076	5.131100
Korea	Won	0.000827	0.000803	0.042400
Sweden	Kroner	0.109565	0.106399	5.623900
Syria	Pound	0.023297	0.022624	1.195800
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.029548	0.028694	1.516700
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000752	0.000730	0.038600

Stocks drop 1.15%

STOCKS led by property giant Ayala Land sank 1.15 percent yesterday to a fresh 11-month low as an explosion in the capital and several bomb blasts in the South spooked investors, analysts said.

"The market is another victim of the recent spate of bombings. Players are also worried over the country's economic situation," said A&A Securities research head Astro del Castillo.

The main index fell 11.91 points to 1,027.67 points, the lowest since Nov. 20, 2001, when the index closed at 1,025.47. The index was down 4.15 percent on the week.

Losers beat gainers 29 to 19. There were 40 stocks unchanged.

Value turnover rose to P335.85 million from Thursday's P316.5 million.

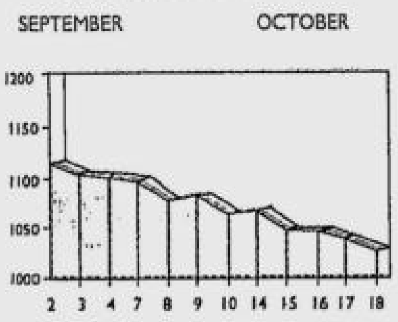
Ayala Land, the country's biggest property developer which has major projects in the Makati business district, was the most actively traded stock. It fell 2 percent or 10 centavos at P4.90.

SM Prime Holdings Inc., the country's largest mall developer, dropped 3.77 percent or 20 centavos at P5.10 on fears that shopping centers were the target of terror attacks.

"With uncertainties lying ahead, expect the market to test 980 psychological level," Del Castillo said.

"Investors are also not bullish on the third-quarter earnings given the expected slower growth of the economy in the third quarter." Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas was reported by local media as saying the Philippine economy may have grown by 3.9 percent year-on-year in the third quarter, down from 4.5 percent in the second quarter due to weaker agricultural output. *Reuters*

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Treasury bond yields weaken

TREASURY bond yields reversed the previous session's uptrend and fell slightly by 5-10 basis points at the secondary market yesterday following the bomb attacks in the south which also pulled down the peso.

Dealers said the grenade blast in Makati also gave the market a scare, despite assurances from authorities that the explosion did not bear signs of a terror attack.

"Rates in the market are flat to slightly higher, the market is reacting to the Makati bombing and also the peso fall," a dealer from a local bank said.

"The market is defensive unlike (on Thursday) when it was aggressive," a dealer said.

Dealers said there was no sign of panicking at the start of trades but rates went up toward noontime as participants turned cautious ahead of the weekend.

Best-bid yields for three-month bills were at 5.45 percent; six-months at 6.725 percent; one-year at 7.625 percent; two-year bonds at 9.0 percent; three-year at 9.5 percent; four-year at 10.6 percent; five-year at 11.175 percent; seven-year at 12.0 percent; 10-year at 12.3 percent; 20-year at 13.5 percent; and 25-year at 14.25 percent.

In the interbank market late on Thursday, the average rate edged lower at 7.03 percent from 7.06 percent previously.

Volume expanded to P680 million from the previous P60 million.

There were two lenders and three borrowers. *Reuters*

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **Growth in regional chemical trading falls short of target** /B3
- **US economic recovery remains uneven** /B7

BSP chief presses revision of inflation target

By Clarissa S. Batino

BANGKO Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura yesterday made a fresh pitch for the revision of the government's inflation target for 2003.

He said the economic managers' reference to the impact of a potential US-Iraq war on the country's economy confirmed the need to amend the government's very optimistic targets.

Buenaventura referred to a Senate presentation of Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas that inflation might rise to between 4.6 and 5.5 percent next year if the conflict between the United States and Iraq erupted into a full-blown war by year's end.

This scenario, the BSP chief said, was quite off-track with the 4-5 percent inflation average approved by the Development Budget Coordinating Committee.

The central bank governor had been calling for a revision of the inflation target for next year as well as adjustments in other macroeconomic targets. Buenaventura said that at the very least, the inflation target for 2003 should match this year's forecast of 4.5 to 5.5 percent.

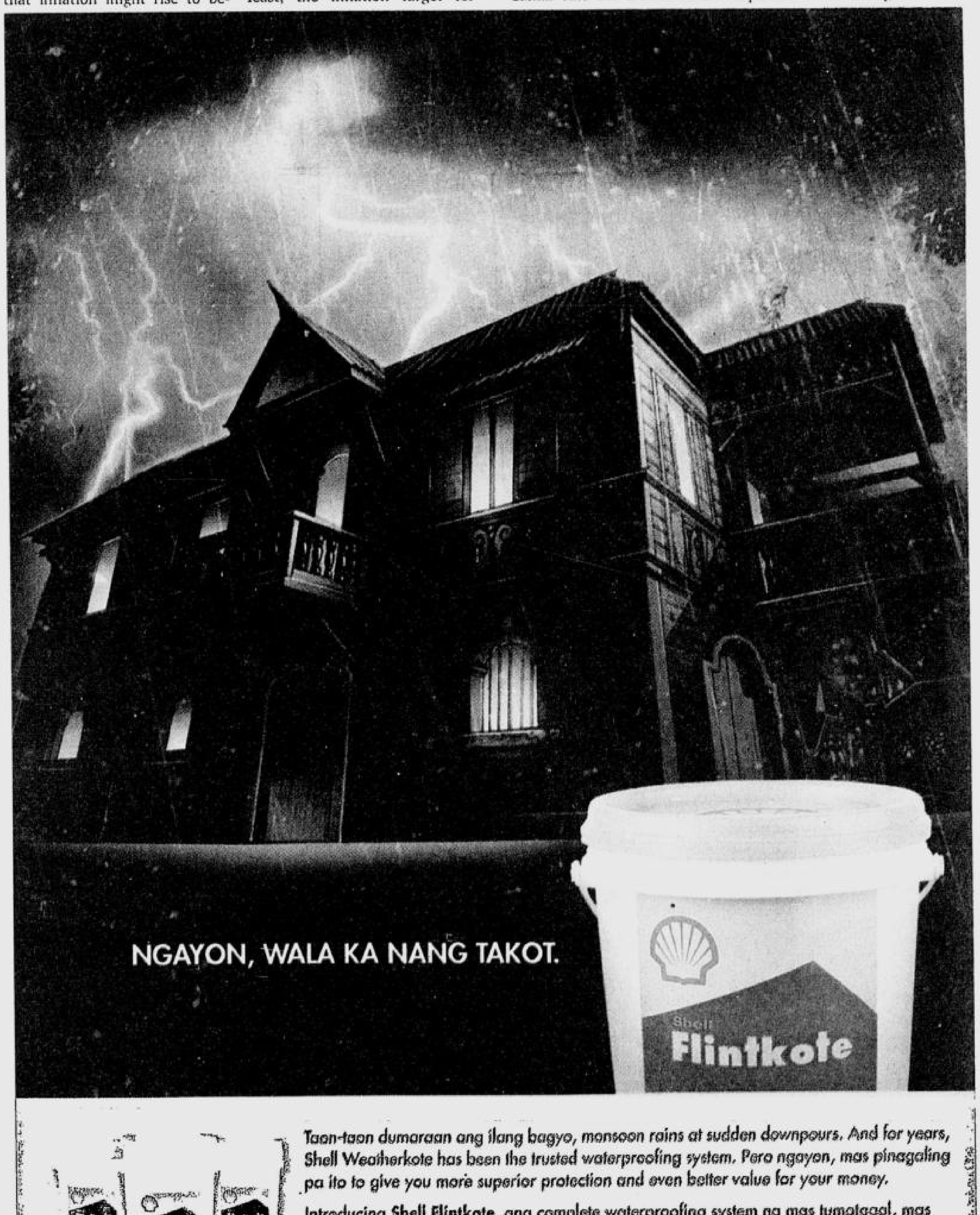
Buenaventura said that even the 2003 growth forecast of 5 to 5.5 percent for gross domestic product was quite optimistic given the brewing tension in the Middle East that has started to affect global economies.

Regional currencies including the peso have been generally weak against the dollar due to the ongoing build-up of crude oil inventory, forcing local oil players to scramble for dollars to fund their importation.

Canlas said the DBCC would retain its inflation target of 4 to 5 percent in 2003 despite objections from the BSP.

The central bank is mainly concerned on the inflation target as it had committed starting this year to keep consumer prices stable through monetary policies.

Canlas said that economic managers approved a lower inflation target as a framework in estimating revenues and not to pressure the BSP. He said he believed the central bank would still have the flexibility in making monetary decisions even with the 4 to 5 percent inflation target.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BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

THAT "soft" opening of the Naia 3, from all indications, will take place this Dec. 15, and it will take place by hook or by crook.

In business, they consider the "soft" opening much like premature ejaculation. Even if we don't want to, we cannot do anything about it. Not even if you're the doctor.

Anyway, the only puzzle remains the reason for the soft opening. Everybody knows the terminal is not yet ready for operation. Is it a case of not wanting to bite the hands that feed you?

Based on word going around the airline groups here, it's all because, without the "soft" opening, there will be a lot to pay—in cash!

* * *

DOING the paying will be the terminal's BOT proponent, Piatco. At least on record, Naia 3 must appear ready for use.

Based on its contract with the government, Piatco must get the terminal ready at a certain time. Or else this cute administration can, technically, declare Piatco in default. It means that Piatco will have to pay the government a huge penalty, which can only add up to the cost.

Piatco claims that it already spent close to $600 million for the project—and still counting. Of course it's a claim nobody in the government dares to verify.

Nobody in this cute administration dares to even just come close to merely proposing an audit. To think, we are paying for all of it eventually.

* * *

IN that way, this cute administration is being kind to Piatco. As everybody in business already knows, the "soft" opening got the blessings of Malacañang.

Still to be resolved, nevertheless, are several issues which are being raised by the international airlines that will use the terminal.

Now there are only 33 of them. Some unseen hands are trying to speed up their transfer to Naia 3. All 33 of them!

Among the issues are security and emergency manuals, fueling, communications system, runway capability, access roads, ground services, etc. The list goes on and on.

* * *

MOREOVER, the international airlines say that, to move to the brand-new, world-class, costly terminal, they will need some leadtime. Meaning, it's not an immediate move.

Word from the Board of Airline Representatives, which is the group of the international carriers, is that they will need at least six more months to move.

That, according to the airlines, should be counted from the time that Piatco can fix all of the troubles at Naia 3—both the operational and contractual kind.

But what's another six months of waiting! Well, it's nothing, except there's a tiny little problem. And that is, nobody really knows when Piatco can resolve all of the issues.

* * *

DO we want to use our own sources of energy, or do we just want to import oil and coal?

That is not the question raised by Jeremy Cliff, managing director of Shell Philippines Exploration, which owns partly the Malampaya natural gas project.

That is actually my own question. But the question came to mind because of what Cliff said about our "mix" of fuel.

He noted that the government has been promoting local sources of energy, such as the Malampaya, attracting investors like Shell by giving them tax breaks.

Yet we rely more on coal to fuel our power generating plants, and coal is imported, than we do on the Malampaya gas, which is right in our backyard.

* * *

JUST last week, news broke out that our Meralco bills would go up this month. Of course nobody would like to pay more for electricity. Of course the militant groups knew that.

As expected, Meralco got it again in the ... well, wherever we usually got it, when somebody tried to *&#% us.

But we could almost predict the increase in Meralco billings. Oil prices were up, and the exchange rate went crazy. Naturally, the cost of energy would follow.

Yet nobody said that almost all of the Meralco billing increase, some 98 percent of it, would actually go to the state-owned Napocor.

That's the same Napocor which denies Meralco the use of electricity from the Malampaya natural gas, because of the so-called "transmission constraint."

And so Napocor has no choice but to use imported dirty coal instead. Get that, Jeremy?

* * *

BASED on their ad in this section, our plastics manufacturers want the government to lower tariff on petrochemicals, which are their raw materials.

Under the Afta schedule, at the start of 2003, tariff on petrochemicals should go down from 15 to 5 percent.

But this cute administration is thinking of taking the petrochemical sector out of Afta schedule for the meantime.

To the plastics sector, it's a bad move for them. Tariff on plastics will be reduced. So they pay high tariff on raw materials, but they compete against imports with lower tariff.

As solution to their problem, they want to kill our petrochemical sector. Is that nice or what?

* * *

ONCE and for all, we must decide whether or not we want a domestic petrochemical industry. And remember—no country can ever industrialize without one.

The tariff cut will surely kill the petrochemical sector, which is barely four years old, unlike others in the region which are mature enough to get their girlfriends pregnant.

No, that's not it, I mean, they can be competitive after 20 years of operation. Which, of course, the plastics manufacturers, I'm afraid, failed to see.

Instead of asking the government to kill their kin, which is the petrochemical sector, they can ask the government to keep the tariff on plastics at 15 percent.

How hard was that to figure out, anyway?

* * *

GO ahead, ask anybody, if it's better for the plastics makers to have the petrochemical sector around than dead.

Look, both sectors cannot survive without the other. Plastics are the petrochems' customers. The petrochems are the plastics' leverage.

With a local petrochem industry as alternative source, the plastics makers can never get good pricing from foreign suppliers, even if they resort to smuggling.

Moreover, they don't have to pay for local petrochem in dollars. Yes, greenbacks! And we all know that the exchange rate is a problem in this country every now and then.

Show your genuine interest by making a booking to avail of these opportunities!

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PROGRAMME:

Opening Remarks: Mina T. Gabor, *President, Philsmed*

FIRST PLENARY SESSION:
"Creating Alliances Through Cooperatives"
Speakers: Mr. Zacarias Sarian, *Agriculturist/Columnist, Manila Bulletin*
Ms. Virginia Teodosio, *Administrator, Cooperative Development Authority (CDA)*
Mr. Rico Giron, *General Manager, Sosoro Ibaba Development Cooperative, Batangas City*
Moderator: Dr. Nerlita Manalili, *Head Agro Industrial Development Program SEARCA*

SECOND PLENARY SESSION:
"Creating Alliances Through Local Government Units (LGUs)"
Speakers: Ms. Maridel Fernando, *Mayor of Marikina*
Mr. Samuel A. Pahm, *Project Manager Metro Kutawato (Cotabato) Development Alliance (MKDA)*
Ms. Mary Jane Ortega, *Mayor of La Union*
Moderator: Mr. Ed Joaquin, *President Ed Joaquin and Associates*

Special Message By: Hon. Ernesto Ordoñez, *Undersecretary, Dept. of Agriculture*, "Opportunities in Agribusiness"

Luncheon Hosted By: *Department of Agriculture*

Keynote Speaker: Sung Joo Kim CEO, Sung Joo International (Korea) "Creating Alliances Worlwide"

THIRD PLENARY SESSION:
"Creating Alliances Thru E-Commerce"
Speakers: Mr. Therone Yupangco, *Country Manager Inter.net*
Mr. Gerardo Ablaza, *President Globe Telecomms*
Mr. Jay Rañola, *MarComm/Events Associates Epson Philippines Corporation*
Mr. Phakhawat Raskri, *CEO E-Industry World, Thailand*
Moderator: *Ms. Claudette Baltazar, President Events 20/20*

FOURTH PLENARY SESSION:
"Creating Alliances through SMEs to SMEs"
Speakers: Mr. Samie Lim, *President Philippine Franchise Association (PFA)*
Ms. Pinky Yee, *Director of Marketing, Goldilocks*
Mr. Marfred Pranada, *Access Capital, Thailand*
Moderator: Mr. Manuel Siggaoat Jr., *President, Franchise Link Asia and Managing Director of FRANCORP Philippines*

Organized by:
PHILIPPINE SMALL AND MEDIUM BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION (PHILSMED)
In cooperation with
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Industry Section: ____
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REGISTRATION FEES:
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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Friday, October 18, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	18	18	17.75	18	131,400
Bank of the Phil. Islands	41.5	41.5	40.5	40.5	1,009,200
China Banking Corp.	620	625	620	625	10,400
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	27	27.5	26.5	27	54,000
First E-Bank Corp.	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	60,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31.5	32.5	31	31.5	133,200
Philippine National Bank	25	25	25	25	26,500
Phil. Savings Bank	29	29	29	29	5,100
Security Bank Corp.	11.75	11.75	11	11	9,300
Union Bank of the Phil.	18	18	17.75	17.75	26,200
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	10,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1185	1185	1185	1185	1,140
Sun Life Financial Serv.	950	960	950	960	7,980
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	17.5	17.5	17	17	26,300
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.35	0.36	0.35	0.35	490,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	407.5	407.5	405	405	11,730
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	400,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	100,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.55	3.7	3.55	3.7	42,000
Piltel	0.21	0.21	0.2	0.2	950,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	235	235	229	230	125,140
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.01	0.011	0.01	0.011	15,700,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	15.5	15.5	15.5	15.5	1,100
Manila Electric Co. B	21.25	22	21.25	21.75	963,300
Petron Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.36	1.38	1,002,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.82	1.84	1.82	1.84	185,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	100,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.16	1.16	1.14	1.14	436,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	722,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	125,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Union Cement Corp.	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.64	40,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.75	13.5	13.75	221,400
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	32	32.5	32	32.5	47,000
San Miguel Corp. A	54.5	55	54.5	54.5	98,900
San Miguel Corp. B	59.5	59.5	58.5	59	201,000
Universal Robina Corp.	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	30,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	400,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	30,000
Ayala Corp.	4.8	4.9	4.8	4.85	4,050,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.22	2.32	2.22	2.28	15,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	18,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.42	2.42	2.4	2.4	10,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10	10	10	10	5,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.19	0.19	0.18	0.185	3,280,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	100,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	100,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	12.5	12.5	12	12.25	850,700
Global Business Hldgs Inc.	63	63	63	63	11,100
Macroasia Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	80,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	380,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.175	0.175	0.165	0.165	2,150,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.205	0.205	0.2	0.2	790,000
Music Corp.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	40,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	60,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	25,000
Interphil Labs Inc. A	1	1.18	1	1.18	44,000
Interphil Labs Inc. B	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	40,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	10,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	5,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	80,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	17.5	17.5	17	17.25	508,500
Jollibee Warrants	13.25	13.5	13.25	13.25	7,800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10	10	10	10	3,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	1,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5	5.1	4.8	4.9	24,055,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	10,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.15	0.155	0.15	0.15	590,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	250,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	30,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.99	0.99	0.98	0.98	1,460,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	160,000
SM Development Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	220,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.3	5.3	5.1	5.1	4,782,000
MINING					
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't.	1.5	1.8	1.5	1.8	12,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	160,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	130,000
Omico Corp.	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	5,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	80,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	420,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	10,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	3,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	86,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	1,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	800,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	10,000

NO. OF ADVANCES: 19; NO. OF DECLINES: 29; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 40; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 88; NO. OF TRADES: 1,769

DISCLOSURES

FAR Eastern University announced the resignation of Edilberto de Jesus as trustee and president of the university.

* * *

DESIGNATED compliance officer of **Imperial Resources Inc.** was Vicente Acsay.

* * *

ACTIVE Alliance Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Oct. 18, 4 p.m. at the function room of Subic Bay Yacht Club. Stockholders of record as of Sept. 30 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

BENPRES Holdings Corp. failed to make interest payment on its long-term commercial paper that fell due yesterday.

* * *

SPI Technologies Inc. signed a stock purchase agreement acquiring United States-based Anchorn Graphics Inc., a scholarly, technical and medical journal publisher.

Airlines to tackle future direction of industry

THE CHIEF executive officers of major international airlines based in the Asia-Pacific region are meeting in Cebu on Nov. 14-15 to debate the future direction of the industry amid conflicting signals from the market.

The Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA) is hosting its 46th Assembly of Presidents at a time when traffic and load factors are extremely healthy, but fuel prices are climbing and political factors threaten to reverse the recent positive developments.

AAPA director general Richard Stirland said this year's assembly "will serve as an important forum to discuss how far the carriers are down the road to recovery from last year's disastrous events and what can be done to mitigate the impact of new security and insurance burdens, among other problems."

"The region's aviation sector has certainly outpaced the rest of the world in recovering from last year's disaster. Now we are faced with other challenges which we hope to get through with proper planning," said Stirland.

Avelino Zapanta, president and chief operating officer of this year's host Philippine Airlines and chair of the assembly, echoes the propitious timing of the event.

"The 46th Assembly of Presidents held in Bali, Indonesia, a couple of months after Sept. 11, agreed that the impact of the tragedy need not be as severe in this part of the world. Thus, AAPA carriers were quite circumspect in their reduction of capacity, cutting routes and grounding of aircraft, enabling them to take advantage at short notice of the re-growth of traffic within the region and on European routes," he said.

The latest figures released by the AAPA showed that revenue passenger kilometers grew by 2.2 percent in August, while passenger numbers increased by 3.8 percent.

Growth in regional chemical trading falls short of target

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry yesterday admitted that intra-regional trade of chemical products did not grow dramatically as expected with the lowering of the tariff barriers in the Asean over the past few years.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II said the removal of trade barriers through the Asean Free Trade Area-Common Effective Preferential Tariffs, regional trade in chemical products did not grow as fast as expected.

Roxas said that trade in chemical products grew by 50 percent to $9 billion in 2000 from $6 billion in 1996.

"Intra-Asean trade has been relatively weak and growth was not as dramatic as expected," Roxas said.

Roxas has urged members of the Asean Chemical Industries Club to tap markets beyond their shores and push intra-Asean trade in view of the bright prospects for the industry.

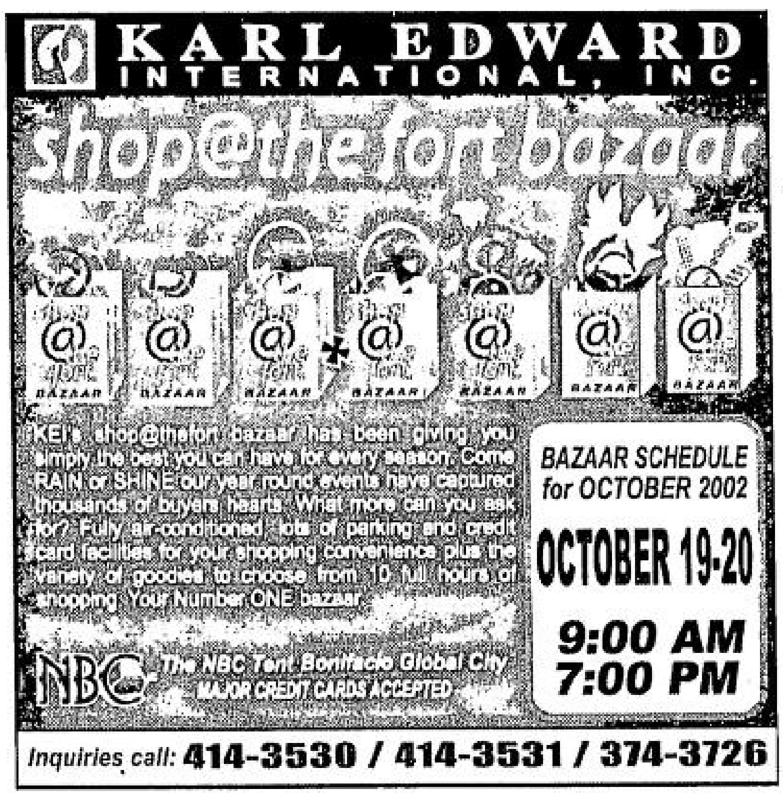
"What we need today is a change in our mindset that we are good only within the confines of our national boundaries, markets which are protected as our preserve, each nation to its own. This will no longer work in today's world," Roxas said.

The DTI noted that Southeast Asia and East Asia have the highest growth rate in terms of demand for chemical products at 6 percent yearly compared with the 2.5 percent growth rate in Japan, the US and Europe.

By 2010, Roxas predicted that the Asia-Pacific market would be larger than Western Europe and the US combined as major chemical firms globalize.

"Despite the negative picture in the past decade, all of the world's major chemical companies have maintained their interest in the Asean. With China's membership in the World Trade Organization, Asean could be used as a springboard for entry into the Chinese market," Roxas said.

Roxas noted that chemical companies had been cold to an Asean integration unlike other industries such as automotive, electronics, and food sectors.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No need to raise key policy rates, says BSP

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas said there would be no need to raise its overnight borrowing and lending rates even if inflation surged to 5.5 percent next year.

"Even if inflation goes up a bit next year because of the Middle East tension, we do not see any increase in interest rates down the road," BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. told lawmakers during a recent Senate hearing on the 2003 budget.

The BSP's overnight borrowing rate is currently at 7 percent while the lending rate is at 9.25 percent.

This year, the inflation rate fell below government projection of 4.5 to 5.5 percent .

Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas said the growth in gross domestic product could fall to 4.2 percent while inflation could go up to 5.5 percent under the worst-case scenario of a US-Iraq war fallout, where crude prices might peak to $32 per barrel.

For 2003, the Development Budget Coordinating Committee had approved a growth target of 5 to 5.5 percent for GDP, a 4- to 5-percent hike in inflation, a peso-dollar exchange rate of 51 to 52 to $1, an 11-percent growth in imports and a deficit ceiling of P142.1 billion.

Under a more modest setting, GDP growth is expected to slow down to 4.7 percent while inflation is seen to rise to 4.5 percent.

Asked by Sen. Manuel Villar, head of the committee on finance, whether the BSP intended to raise interest rates to prop up the peso, the central bank official said there was no need to.

Tetangco said that on a year-to-date basis, the peso still averaged at 51.16 to a dollar.

"This is still very close to the DBCC's forex assumption of between 50 and 51 to $1," he added.

Tetangco is confident the peso will stabilize in the last quarter of the year given the expected inflow of dollars from overseas Filipino workers.

"The DBCC recognizes that there are threats to our growth projections arising from the Middle East tension. But we are still maintaining our targets for now," Canlas told lawmakers the other day.

Canlas said the DBCC would retain its inflation target of 4 to 5 percent in 2003 despite the BSP's objections.

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Shipping industry seeks perks, VAT exemption

By Abigail L. Ho

THE LOCAL shipping industry is seeking incentives from the Board of Investments as well as tariff and value-added tax exemptions from the Department of Finance to help make the domestic shipping sector competitive with its foreign counterparts and with domestic airlines.

To achieve this, the Maritime Industry Cluster sought the help of the country's legislators in getting a bill on the development of the shipping industry, and the provision of ship financing and incentives approved.

In a statement issued yesterday, the Maritime Industry Cluster said domestic shipping was not moving forward because of "the antiquated legal framework within which it operates."

It said that the whole industry, including small players, needed laws that would give it more incentives—the same ones that its foreign counterparts and the local airlines were enjoying.

At present, the only incentive that BOI-registered shipping companies is the income tax holiday.

For shipyards, only the bigger players are covered by the BOI's Investment Priorities Plan. Smaller shipyards have been limited to ship repair for lack of financial capability to build large vessels. As a result, local ship owners were forced to settle for second-hand vessels as most local shipyards could not meet their size and specification requirements, the MIC said.

Although the DOF had already expressed willingness to allow VAT exemption for vessel importation, the exemption would be made available only for five years from the enactment of the law.

"The MIC reiterates that the development of the industry is a continuing effort. Loans for the purchase of the vessels are long term. Vessel replacement comes as older vessels are retired, with new tonnage deployed as demand is created. It is unrealistic to peg a long-term development plan to a short-term incentive," it said.

Aside from more government incentives and accessible funding sources, the MIC also stressed that the deregulation of the local shipping industry was key to its growth as this would encourage the entry of investors.

Robinsons Land to open 4 more malls next year

By Elena R. Torrijos

PUBLICLY listed Robinsons Land Corp., the property arm of the Gokongwei family, expects to complete the construction of four shopping malls by next year.

In documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, RLC said the four ongoing mall developments were in Sta. Rosa, Laguna; Cagayan de Oro City, Misamis Oriental; Lipa City, Batangas, and Dasmariñas Cavite.

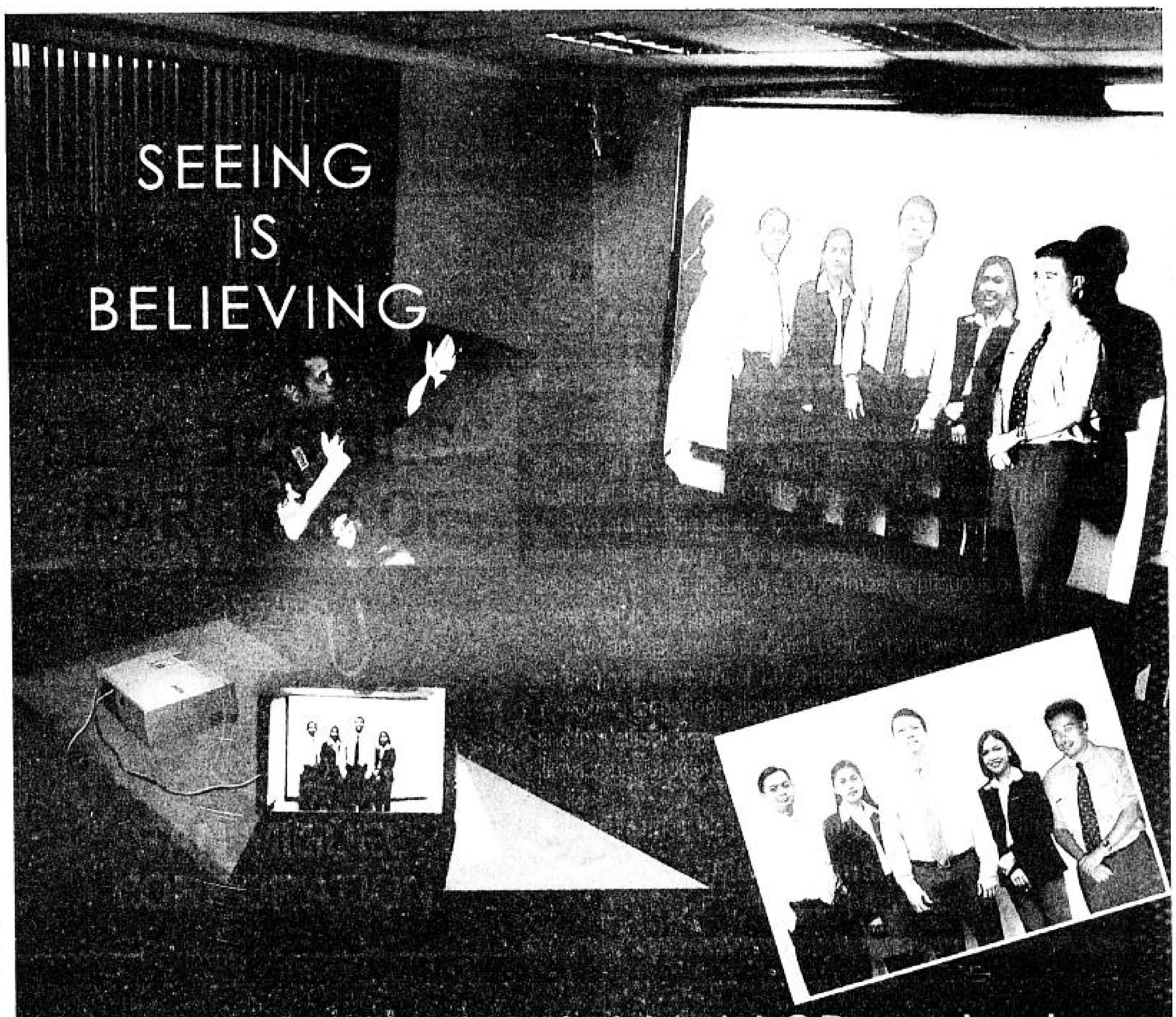
RLC is issuing P2 billion worth of 5-year and one-day bonds and will use approximately P1.97 billion of the net proceeds from the issuance to finance the ongoing projects.

The property developer will also use the proceeds in meeting debt servicing requirements and for its permanent working capital.

RLC will offer the 5-year bonds late next month. The bonds have been rated PRS Aa, indicating they have "large margins of protection."

The credit rating reflects the company's good business franchise and asset quality, its conservative capital structure and ample cash flow protection.

The overall sluggishness in certain segments (hotel, high rise developments) of the property sector was also considered in arriving at the rating.



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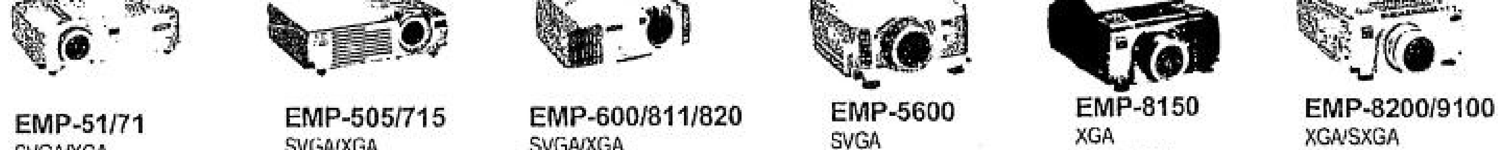
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SCIENCE/HEALTH

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang** ● *Assistant Editor* **Stella O. Gonzales**

RP law on salt iodization deficient, study says

By Charles E. Buban

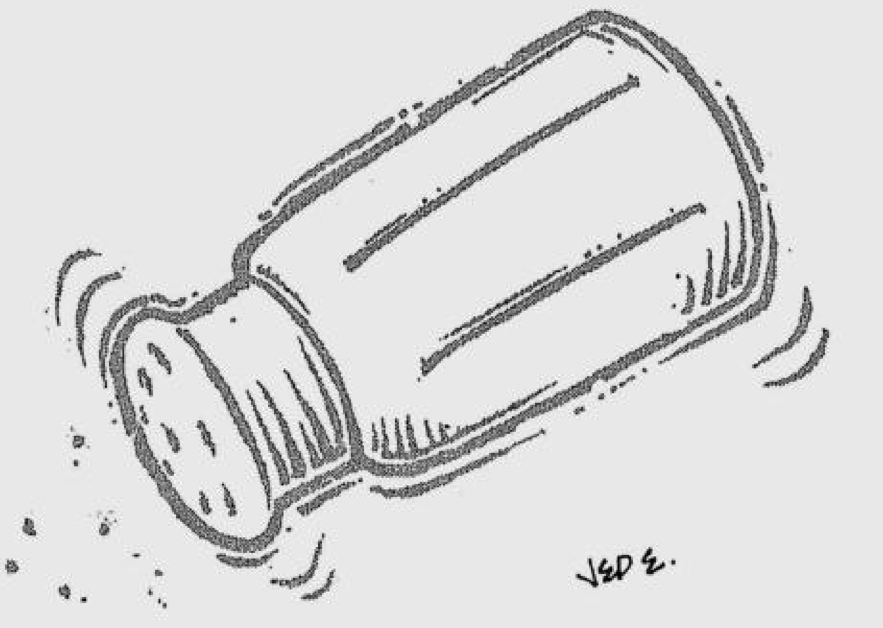

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

IODINE deficiency is the world's major cause of preventable mental retardation and its severity can vary from mild intellectual blunting to serious case of cretinism.

To address this problem, countries worldwide have enacted laws that aim to promote iodine in their people's diet.

In the Philippines, Congress passed Republic Act 8172, or the Act for Salt Iodization Nationwide (commonly known as the Asin Law), which required salt manufacturers to iodize their product. Seven years after it was enacted in July 1995, a mere 22 percent of the population was using iodized salt.

According to a recent study undertaken by the University of the Philippines Center for Leadership, Citizenship and Democracy, the Asin Law is being poorly implemented.

. The study, commissioned by the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef), found that of the country's 1,525 municipalities and 111 cities, only 69 ordinances and 150 resolutions have been passed to promote the availability and use of iodized salt.

Moreover, the study said, 'very few municipalities and cities imposed fines or sanctions for non-compliance with the law which imposes a maximum penalty of P100,000 and the revocation of the offender's license to operate.

Mental retardation

Terrel Hill, Unicef country representative in the Philippines, said lack of iodine is still the world's single greatest cause of mental retardation.

Unlike other nutrients, iodine does not occur naturally in specific foods. Rather, it is present in the soil and is ingested through foods grown on that soil.

Iodine deficiency is more prevalent in the uplands and landlocked areas because iodine is not evenly distributed in the earth's crust, unlike in ocean water where adequate amounts of the substance can be found. This is why people living near the sea or those with access to fish and seafoods are more fortunate.

People need iodine, an essential component of the thyroid hormones. Failure to have adequate iodine leads to insufficient production of hormones which affect many different parts of the body, particularly the muscles, heart, liver, kidney and the developing brain.

One of its more severe consequences is cretinism, a condition characterized by gross mental retardation, deaf mutism, short stature and various other defects.

A deficiency in iodine can also lead to the following:

- Mental retardation
- Defects in the development of the nervous system
- Goiter
- Sluggishness
- Growth retardation
- Reproductive failure
- Increased childhood mortality

Children most affected

According to the Food and Nutrition Research Institute, 36 percent of Filipino children suffer from moderate iodine deficiency disorder, while 12 percent have severe iodine deficiency disorders (IDD).

IDD is one of four malnutrition problems that affect young children. The other three are protein-energy malnutrition, iron deficiency anemia and Vitamin A deficiency

The FNRI, in its 2001 Philippine Facts and Figures, said Lanao del Norte had the largest number of children suffering from iodine deficiency at 76.4 percent. Bukidnon and Misamis Oriental had 71.7 percent and 70.8 percent, respectively.

The FNRI said 36 of every 100 children tested have moderate to severe symptoms of IDD.

In a recent survey, Unicef reported that goiter had a prevalence rate of 15 percent, with regional rates ranging from 10 percent to 93 percent. This regional prevalence survey of six regions included 38 provinces and 10 cities.

The most severely affected areas were Mountain Province (93 percent), Bukidnon (71 percent), Oriental Mindoro (56 percent) and Abra (41 percent).

Cretinism has been reported in the central mountainous area of Luzon.

According to the survey, one in 10 pregnant or lactating women was iodine deficient.

Iodization required

Since iodine is required in very minute quantities (150-200 micrograms per person per day), the dosage needed in salt is very small.

That's why the use of iodized salt is being recommended as the cheapest and most effective way to combat iodine deficiency disorders.

However, health officials said the high cost of iodized salt has prevented families with meager incomes from replacing ordinary table salt.

The UP study cited problems in production, political will, coordination and monitoring as major reasons that prevented the proper implementation of the law.

In fact, in the provinces under study, less than 50 percent of dealers in Camarines Norte, 14 percent in Negros Occidental, and only four dealers in Pangasinan were selling iodized salt.

Even salt traders are having a hard time making iodized salt available despite the Asin Law.

They cited several reasons: failure to gain sustainable profit because consumer demand is low and the cost of production is higher than that for ordinary salt; lack of access to affordable raw materials and equipment needed to iodize salt; and competition with imported brands.

Iodizing techniques

There are several ways by which iodine can be put into salt.

Iodine, in the form of potassium iodate, is mixed to the salt after refining and drying and before packing.

In the wet method, potassium iodate is first dissolved in water to make a concentrated solution. The solution is then dripped into or sprayed onto the salt.

In the dry method, potassium iodate is mixed with a filler, such as calcium carbonate. The powder is then sprinkled over the dry salt.

Buko pie, coconut roofs, bamboo paper and tilapia hatcheries

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

THE UBIQUITOUS *buko* pie has now joined the international market, thanks to the combined efforts of government and industry.

One, the DOST's Industrial Technology Development Institute conducted a research on shelf-life extension and appropriate packaging technology. According to Jen Miclat of the S & T Post, a quick freezing technology preserves the *buko* pie longer. "The pie can be stored for a year under temperatures of 7 to 14 degrees Celsius."

Two, the Packaging Research and Development Center of the Philippines developed packaging which conforms to international standards. "A plastic inner packaging made of low-density polyethylene and polypropylene suitable for microwave heating was used."

Three, Swan Bakeshop Inc. located at 1307 Cavite St., Sta. Cruz, Manila makes the *buko* pie from fresh young coconut meat with buttered crust topped with streusel. A 494-gram pie costs around P195.

The pie was launched in Sydney in 1999 and in the Middle East in 2000. Soon it will appear in the US, Canada and Japan. According to DTI-Citem, native foods such as *buko* pie are in great demand in the world market, and perhaps represents almost $2 billion in Europe alone.

Coco fiber boards

Another good news comes from the Philippine Coconut Authority-Zamboanga Research Center. Researchers L. Penamora, R. Palomar and N. Melencion developed roof boards from coconut fiber.

Called CFBs (coconut fiber cement boards), these provide so much insulation that a house can be built even without a ceiling!

According to reporter Clarinda Apolinar, "The researchers mixed coconut coir with cement at a 70:30 ratio and formed these into a corrugated mat by using steel mold and pressing it to the desired thickness. The board, which measures 60 cm long, 40 cm wide, 12 mm thick, has a density of 650 kg/cu meter."

The CFB has many advantages. It is water- and weather-proof and more resistant to fire, termite, fungi and rot than, say, ordinary wood. Its strength is comparable to that of commercial materials such as galvanized sheets. It can be coated with sealants and paints, since cement is the binding material.

The CFB was a finalist in a Western Mindanao R & D competition last year held under the auspices of the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development.

Bamboo paper

Now how about paper from bamboo? Mariano Marcos State University researchers Dr. Stanely Malab, Shirley Agrupis, Leila Cabalar and Remelie Ballesteros produced paper using pulp from bamboo and fibers from kapok.

This paper allegedly surpasses that made from the traditional species of *magabuyo* in terms of weight, color and strength.

Kapok and bamboo were treated with detergent and sodium hydroxide. The result? Paper that is "light, pleasingly warm and naturally off-white in color. It had a higher brightness index and strength properties comparable with other composite sheets."

With a village-wide handmade paper industry, a payback period of two-and-a-half years is estimated, with an ROI of 33 percent. This technology would also renew interest in kapok, which may slowly be vanishing.

Tilapia hatchery

With the help of the Philippine Council for Aquatic and Marine Research and Development, the Fisheries Technology Resource Center of Marawi State University (MSU)-Naawan implemented the tilapia hatchery program in Northern Mindanao.

The center conducted site surveys, pond design and construction techniques for small-scale hatcheries, which have encouraged individual investors to pitch in.

For instance, concrete tanks were built some years ago, and an outdoor setup was used as a nursery for the sex-reversal operation. (Remember that sex reversal is essential since tilapia breed fast and overcrowding is detrimental.) Thus, fry production rose from 500 in 1985 to 500,000 in 2001.

The center also organized farmer groups and gave fingerlings to fishpond operators. No wonder the tilapia industry is one of the major income-generating projects of MSU-Naawan.

The first successful hatchery was established in Oroquieta, Misamis Occidental, followed by Malaybalay, Bukidnon. Other small projects can be found in Valencia, Mabuhay, Talakag and Kahapunan in Bukidnon; Clarin, Misamis Occidental; Lala, Lanao del Norte; Jasaan and Balingasay, Misamis Oriental; Marawi City, Lanao del Sur and Butuan, Agusan del Norte.

For details about these four projects, contact the Science and Technology Information Institute at Bicutan, Taguig (837-7520, 8372071 to 80 locals 2148 or 2144).

* * *

(Queena N. Lee-Chua, Ph.D., is an associate professor of mathematics and psychology at the Ateneo de Manila University. She also writes the column "Mind Games" for www.inq7.net every Wednesday. Contact her at blessbook@yahoo.com.)

The shoo fly plants

DISCOVER

Massie K. Santos

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

(Second of two parts)

SCIENTISTS everywhere are discussing the ramifications of having the genomic sequences of human beings, the malaria parasite *Plasmodium falciparum* and its carrier the *Anopheles gambiae* mosquito available. And people are now talking about a future where diseases don't do buzz-and-bites.

The mosquito bites on my arms and legs, meanwhile, prompt me to discuss two currently available means of creating insect-free zones that most people don't seem to know about: using tomatoes and carnivorous plants.

A few months ago, a North Carolina State University professor named Dr. Michael Roe announced that he had found a chemical compound in tomatoes that naturally repelled mosquitoes, ticks, fleas, ants, cockroaches and flies.

I had always thought that tomato plants get attacked by worms and various insects, but perhaps they're only worms, after all.

This compound is supposed to be so effective that the university actually patented it based on Roe's studies. As the compound is also said to be used in various cosmetic products (if this turns out to be Vitamin E, I'll be amazed that no one told these people that a vitamin can't be patented), I can only find it impressive that a chemical that repels insects can do no harm to the human body.

Better than DEET

A company called Insect Biotechnology is now working on getting the compound, its name so secret that it is only identified as IBI-246, out on supermarket shelves to rival insect repellent sprays that contain the chemical DEET.

Also known as N,N-diethyl-meta-toluamide, DEET has long been found to be the most effective chemical in the market when it comes to repelling insects, especially mosquitoes. Unfortunately, long-term use of DEET-based products has been found to damage brain cells and affect behavior.

Tests also suggest that IBI-246 works longer at keeping mosquitoes away than DEET, which means less topical applications.

Does this mean people should start smearing themselves with fresh tomatoes—I'm not sure if IBI-246 is in ordinary ketchup—every day?

I'd rather have a pitcher plant instead.

Pitcher plants

Most people think of the Venus fly trap when they see the words "carnivorous plants," but there are actually several types of such plants and innumerable species scattered all over the world. And while these plants come in all shapes and sizes, it isn't very likely that one will be inclined to take home a plant that looks big enough to eat a small dog—not that it will, of course.

Ever since I saw a Discovery channel program about them a year or so ago, I always wanted to have a Venus fly trap of my own that would eat mosquitoes and flies. So I did some research and found out that there are carnivorous plants in the Philippines.

In fact, there are at least 10 Nepenthes species of pitcher plants here: two kinds each of the *N. alata* and *N. ventricosa* species in Luzon, the *N. mira* and *N. philippinensis* in Palawan, and the *N. bellii*, *N. merrilliana*, *N. mindanaoensis* and the *N. truncata* species in Mindanao.

Vines with bulbs

Pitcher plants are basically slim green vines with several green and red vase-like bulbs dangling from them. They all look much nicer than a Venus fly trap at any rate.

The pitchers can grow up to seven inches in length and can ingest a variety of creatures from flies to cockroaches.

The insects are attracted by nectar produced in the pitchers. The inner walls of pitchers are deliberately slippery and so insects fall inside and a trapdoor of sorts closes over the mouth of the pitcher to prevent any chance of escape.

These plants are sold online from several nurseries that don't originate in the Philippines, and I find myself trying to figure out why very few people in the country know about these plants and keep one around the house.

Some varieties do make good house plants, while others are happier wrapped around trees or thick posts outdoors. For as long as these plants get enough water and sunlight, and aren't played with or eaten by any pets, they'll make sure there are fewer unwanted household pests in the vicinity for a good long while.

Personally, I think it's cool to tell people you have a mosquito-free household because your plants eat them all.

And it definitely beats the tomatoes.

SCISCOPE

Farmers with green thumbs

SEVERAL farmers in the upland town of Lantapan, Bukidnon, have earned the reputation of being "green thumbs" for having profited from sales of good quality trees and seedlings they themselves have planted.

The farmers have banded themselves into the Agroforestry Tree Seed Association of Lantapan (Atsal) after their early business venture of selling trees and seedlings netted for them a total of P3 million. The group now trains many farmers in Mindanao and have even participated in several national congresses to share profitable tree nursery practices.

Atsal members combine science-based seed technology with home-grown entrepreneurship with the technical assistance of the International Center for Research in Agroforestry (Icraf) and the US-AID Sanrem, a research group involved in sustainable agriculture in the upland.

Science and volunteerism

DESPITE limited resources, the municipality of Lantapan, and three other local government units in Bukidnon are taking charge of managing their natural resources by combining leadership with science-based information and participatory tools.

They tapped volunteer support to conduct community appraisals and are utilizing creative facilitation techniques to bring local stakeholders to a consensus that led to a local natural resources management (NRM) plan. These NRM plans now serve as guide for annual budgetary allocations even with changes in leadership. The Sanrem and International Center for Research in Agroforestry (Icraf) assisted the initiative through research-based information on natural resources management strategies.

Bohol shows the way

WIDE-SCALE agroforestry programs run and sustained by local governments with the aid of scientists and researchers are proving to be a boon for farmers in at least nine towns in Bohol.

The local government units which crafted their own development programs in some mountain areas have become successful that they were able to obtain bank financing to help them do their job.

To date, over a thousand farmers working with the LGU programs are transforming their subsistence farms into agroforests that combine food crops with fruit trees of high value.

Providing support are the Community-Based Resource Management Program (CBRMP) of the Department of Finance as well as research and development groups including the International Center for Research in Agroforestry (Icraf).

Ostomy conference

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has endorsed the 4th Asian Ostomy Association Conference set to be held in Manila on Oct. 23-26.

In her message to the delegates who come from various countries, Ms Macapagal said the meeting "demonstrates the eagerness of Asian medical practitioners to meet the challenges posed by the present times."

The conference is part of ongoing efforts to promote awareness of and support for ostomates and their needs.

Ostomates are persons who have undergone surgery to create a new body opening because their organ functions, especially of the bladder and bowel, have been impaired due to disease like cancer or injury or congenital conditions.

For more information call 733-3485.

Anesthesiologists urge moms to opt for painless childbirth

By Tessa R. Salazar

"WE don't want to see our pregnant patients suffering during labor anymore. We don't want to hear so much shouting in the delivery room."

This was the sentiment of Dr. Fidel Payawal, president of the Philippine Society of Anesthesiologists, as he said it was the moral obligation of anesthesiologists to offer painless childbirth to pregnant patients.

The Philippine Society of Anesthesiology, the Society of Obstetric Anesthesia of the Philippines and B. Braun collaborated on a project where they set up centers in seven hospitals that offer painless childbirth, or epidural.

The Philippine General Hospital, University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center, St. Luke's Medical Center, Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital, Sto. Tomas University Hospital, The Medical City and Quezon City General Hospital are the first seven hospitals to offer the procedure.

Numbing nerves

An epidural involves intravenously delivering the anesthetic near the lower spine. This numbs the nerves of the uterus and birth passage without hindering the labor process.

A successful epidural gives the mother an almost pain-free labor and birth. The mother remains alert but comfortable during contractions.

The anesthesia usually wears off in two hours, after which the patient feels a burning sensation around the birth canal.

Epidural has been practiced in the country as early as the 1980s. But the procedure costs more. The anesthesiologist is required to stay with a patient longer, and a dose of epidural anesthesia can cost anywhere from P3,000 to P15,000.

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

One way to reduce the cost is to increase the number of people opting for the procedure.

Payawal said his group was working on a basic kit that will be affordable for patients.

Side effects

Side effects involving epidural procedures are said to be rare, minor and transient. These include a headache and backache after delivery.

The mother may also experience a drop in blood pressure, allergic reactions to medications and, sometimes, a slowdown in labor.

Careful observation and monitoring of the mother and the unborn infant is required to minimize the risk of complications.

Anesthesiologists assure the public that epidurals are safe for the baby.

Epidural is one of the more popular options for pain-free birth in the United States and other developed countries, said Payawal.

He said other techniques such as Lamaze and other nondrug coping skills that use a woman's strength to reduce the stimulation of the nerves that convey pain messages to the brain have also gained popularity abroad.

When Lamaze was adopted in the Philippines, almost 90 percent of women who opted for it asked for an anesthesiologist in the delivery room, Payawal said.

"If it is painless labor that you want, ask your obstetrician to refer you to an anesthesiologist who can give you an epidural anesthesia," he stressed.

The popular practice in the Philippines involves general anesthesia. The anesthesiologist administers the painkiller only when the head of the baby is out, after the mother has already undergone several hours of agonizing labor.

For those who choose neither epidural nor general anesthesia, there are amnesic drugs which are administered after delivery. These drugs help the patient forget the pain of delivery.

Choosing your anesthesiologist

YOUR anesthesiologist is key to your survival in the operating room.

The role of the anesthesiologist is to administer pain relief or sedation to make the operation easier for both the surgical team and the patient.

A risk-free operation relies on your ability to choose your surgeon and anesthesiologist.

If you have a personal choice, you should make it known. Or you can heed your trusted doctor's advice. More often than not, your own doctor will know good anesthesiologists around.

At the very least, meet the anesthesiologist before the procedure. Ask for his qualifications, and be sure to make a full disclosure of your medical history, including your allergies and the medications you are taking.

If you're uncomfortable with him, you can ask for a replacement.

Dr. Fidel C. Payawal, president of the Philippine Society of Anesthesiologists, stressed that patients should not always depend on the recommendation of their surgeons.

Often, the patient gets to meet his anesthesiologist a few days before the surgery. But sometimes the patient would not even be informed as to who would be administering the anesthesia, said Payawal.

The anesthesiologist's primary role includes making informed medical judgments as he regulates the patient's critical life functions during surgery. He is expected to immediately diagnose and treat any medical problems that might arise during surgery or recovery period.

The anesthesiologist is expected to evaluate a patient before administering the anesthesia. A preoperative evaluation includes checks for tuberculosis, cardiac disease and renal function.

Payawal said an anesthesiologist must be a graduate of an accredited training hospital. He should be a diplomate of the Philippine Board of Anesthesiology.

Evolving role

The anesthesiologist's role has evolved. His presence is now felt not only in the operating room but also in intensive care units to help manage acute and chronic pain.

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

Anesthesiologists also administer anesthesia for diagnostic procedures such as CT scans and MRIs.

Most anesthesiologists are capable of handling advanced cardiac life support systems.

The Philippine Society of Anesthesiologists has about 1,800 members of which 1,200 are active. An estimated 60 percent of the country's anesthesiologists are based in Manila.

Payawal said each hospital should have eight to 15 anesthesiologists.

Mortality rates

Accidents do happen in the administration of anesthesia. According to British statistics, the possibility of having fatal complications is one in every 100,000 operations.

There is the so-called anesthesia risk which depends on the patient's medical condition and the type of surgery to be done.

But the anesthesiologist is now better equipped with modern machines in monitoring his patient.

Before, he had to make do with a blood pressure apparatus. Today, there is the pulse oximeter to measure oxygen saturation, the ECG tracing intraoperatively (for cardiac monitoring) and the capnograph which measures carbon dioxide levels in the body. There are also nerve stimulators that determine the amount of muscle relaxants that the patient needs.

Tessa R. Salazar

How the body reacts to anesthesia

PICTURE yourself being sliced open on the operating table, fully awake and feeling every nerve in your body screaming in agony.

Truly, we take for granted what a few hundred years ago was nonexistent.

How does anesthesia work its wonders in our bodies?

Experts liken the human body to a main communication system made up of a network of nerve cells that interconnect the brain and spinal cord. The network is called the nervous system, which is responsible for translating messages of pain, and all sensations, to the brain.

These signals travel incredibly fast from the tip of nerve endings, through the spinal cord, and on to various areas of the brain where they are processed into emotions, sensations, thoughts and actions.

For someone undergoing a simple ingrown toenail surgery, for instance, local anesthesia is injected in the affected area. It will numb a small area so that the nerves will not allow pain signals from the foot to be sent to the nervous system.

If there is a need to eliminate pain in a larger part of the body, anesthesiologists may consider regional anesthesia. They block larger groups of nerves or even the entire spinal cord so that pain signals from this larger area would not reach the brain.

Major surgeries, such as those involving the heart, need general anesthesia. They will render one unconscious, so the brain does not perceive any signals of pain.

Tessa R. Salazar

Deliciously fatty and killing you softly

MEDICAL FILES

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

A FEW weeks ago, I wrote about how unfortunate it was that many of our schoolchildren are overweight, if not pathologically obese.

And it is due to the unhealthy eating habits that parents unwittingly allow their children to develop. The diet one grows up with is likely the diet one will prefer as an adult.

Most adults know that high fat diets—although admittedly tastier, more succulent and satisfying than high-fiber, low-fat diets—are the best "anti-aging diet" since one may not reach a ripe old age with them. There is a higher likelihood of a stroke, heart attack and even cancer.

Yet most adults simply cannot resist when deep-fried crispy *pata*, mouth-watering *lechon de leche* and tasty Peking duck skin are served on the table. The typical adult is likely to pick any of these over a dish of steamed spinach or broccoli.

It simply boils down to the eating habits one grows up with.

This is probably why many dieticians are giving up on stubborn patients, even those who had a stroke or a heart attack.

Initially, these patients' close brush with death may make them very compliant with a healthy diet. But after several months, when their conditions stabilize, a good number of them are back to their old lifestyle. Until the next stroke cuts one down to a vegetative existence.

Eating habits

It might be too late to inculcate the right eating habits on adults. Many specialists and nutritionists think that children would make the best targets for dietary instructions. Some schools have even included it in their curriculum.

The big problem though, as my favorite professor, Dr. Ramon Abarquez Jr., would emphasize, is that it has to be a "family affair."

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

Dietary instructions have to be reinforced at home. Health instructions in school would be meaningless if the child goes home and has pork chop and *pata tim* for dinner.

Sometimes parents remove the fat from their pork chop or *lechon* and give them to their children because of the erroneous belief that children are immune to atherosclerosis, or the narrowing of the arteries. The truth is that the deadly atherosclerotic process starts in childhood.

Dr. Willie Ong, a heart specialist at the Manila Doctors Hospital and an author who holds a master's degree in public health, cites a familiar example:

"When Butsoy, a chubby 5-year-old boy, went to a restaurant, his parents ordered his favorite pork chop. As the sizzling, mouth-watering dish arrived, our little friend skillfully proceeded to separate all the fat from the meat. A lady happened to notice and remarked, 'What a fine, health conscious boy! He's removing those dripping fats.' In an instant, Butsoy gobbled up all the fat and left the meat untouched."

Such scene is reenacted in many restaurants and dining tables in our country.

Bane in big cities

A high fat diet is a bane in many big cities where being cosmopolitan seems to include diets that make the lips glossy.

A recent study by the Food and Nutrition Research Institute and the Philippine Lipid Society showed higher cholesterol levels among those living in Metro Manila compared to the other regions. It is no coincidence that Metro Manila has more deaths due to heart disease.

Dr. Ong believes this is due to the numerous fast-food chains in the metropolis. We hope that McDonalds, Jollibee and the rest would use their culinary creativity to come up with equally satisfying healthy food items on their menu.

The Charter (Clinical Hypertension and Atherosclerosis Research on Therapies, Epidemiology and Risk-management) based at the Manila Adventist Medical Center and other medical societies would gladly volunteer to give any of these fast-food establishments free advice on health-promoting and not disease-provoking diets.

Come to think of it, this may be an excellent way for them to show their corporate social responsibility.

Dr. Ong has time and again offered his expertise *pro bono* to the Department of Health. I hope Health Secretary Manolet Dayrit takes some serious interest in the doctor's proposals.

On the fat issue, Dr. Ong recommends two basic ways to reduce fat intake: teach a person not to eat fat and for the government to enact laws to separate fat from the meat before it reaches the consumers.

Avoid the fat

"For the first strategy, we can so decide by sheer strength of will power to limit our fat intake. We can try to avoid delectable foods like *lechon, chicharon*, gravy and mayonnaise dressings.

"We may opt for food substitution, like eating plain bread instead of fried rice or using popcorn for *pulutan* instead of *sisig*.

"To get our 'fat' fix, we can indulge in fish fat, especially from mackerel and salmon, since this is healthier and loaded with good cholesterol.

"A few iron-willed people have enviably kept their fat intake down, and maintained a slim figure. But for the rest of us, fat is impossible to resist. It is tastier, more aromatic and more intoxicating than dry lean meat. Any restaurant owner will tell you: serve the fat and people will come.

"Where can we find sanctuary from these temptations?

"Here, we face the problem of choice. The issue is: Do we really have a choice if our senses are constantly being enticed with fatty cuisine? If not, then is it possible to remove the fat before it reaches our plates?

Anti-fat policy

"What if we consider a policy that effectively forces meat dealers to separate the fat from lean meat of beef and pork before selling them in the markets?

"The trimmed fat can then be sold separately at a higher price or fat may be used for alternative purposes. This is the concept of health protection.

"We foresee such policy affecting several sectors of society: the Bureau of Animal industry, livestock breeders, meat dealers, market vendors, restaurant owners and the canning factories.

"We can expect some groups to resist (the policy) but there are ways around this. For example, we can encourage livestock breeders to change their feed so they could raise leaner pigs. We can also allow interspersed fat and chicken and fish fat.

"Of course, I do not harbor any illusion of ever removing the swine as a fiesta fare, unless I want meat dealers running after me with their sharp knives.

"A policy of trimming beef and pork is feasible. In a policy analysis, I have concluded that an anti-fat policy could lessen our fat intake and thereby reduce deaths from heart disease.

"Dr. Shah Ebrahim, a noted American researcher, agrees that policies to reduce fat intake are more effective in curbing heart disease than simple health education and advocacy against fat.

"Recently, the US had adopted measures to reduce their fat intake. It is hard to find fatty meat in American supermarkets because fats are trimmed before they reach the consumers. In some American schools, a low-fat meat alternative has replaced the usual hamburger meat.

"It could work, if we have the will to make it work."

These proposed strategies are simple, easy and "doable." I'm sure they will go a long way in reorienting our unhealthily programmed minds on what a healthy diet should be.

When we say grace before meals, perhaps we should implore Divine guidance so that our prayer should be: "Lead us not into this gustatory temptation and deliver us from this fatty evil. Amen."

Vitamins to REVERSE YOUR HEART DISEASE

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IMF loan use can harm a country's economy

A Fresh Sucker Every Time!
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o war
n Iraq
End the
anctions

A PROTESTER carries a sign during a march against International Monetary Fund and World Bank policies in Washington, DC. AFP

WASHINGTON—Too many countries depend too heavily on International Monetary Fund loans and prolonged use of such cash can actually harm a country's economy and often ends in failure, a new report revealed recently.

The highly critical study was released by the IMF's new Independent Evaluation Office, which was set up last year under a mandate from the IMF's board.

The study, the first such look at the inside workings of the IMF, followed months of research during which the evaluation office was granted unfettered access to internal IMF documents.

It found that countries like the Philippines, Pakistan and many others have been excessive users of IMF cash, and such loans are more likely to fail than succeed, can crimp economic growth, sometimes stunt the development of the country's own policy expertise and can intrude on the democratic process.

The failure of so many loans was blamed on myriad reasons, ranging from a lack of political resolve in the countries themselves, overly optimistic assumptions of economic growth to the fact that the IMF sometimes gives loans for political reasons even though expectations of failure are quite high.

Of the 128 countries that had IMF programs between 1971 and 2000, 51 were prolonged users of IMF loans—meaning they had an IMF program for more than seven years in any 10-year period.

The report also said the prolonged use of funds was rising.

But perhaps most damning, the study revealed that among those prolonged users, almost 70 percent of the countries had a failure rate of more than half of their IMF programs. In other words, a large proportion of IMF loans to repeat borrowers ended in failure.

Egypt, Peru, Guyana and Mongolia repeatedly won IMF loans despite the fact that all of their programs fell short of their goals. Many others, like Pakistan, won a near constant stream of loans despite almost always falling short of IMF demands.

A range of factors led to the prolonged use of IMF cash, the report found. Among them were problems in countries being worse than originally thought and that the IMF has become more involved with poor countries with bigger problems.

But other reasons for lengthy use of IMF cash were less benign—particularly the need to get the IMF's "seal of approval" to enable other forms of funding.

"The need for a program generates pressures, on both member countries and the IMF, to agree to programs even when the probability of success is low, thus increasing the likelihood of failed programs and repeat access," the report found.

The report also found IMF programs sometimes deficient in design and reliant on excessively optimistic economic forecasts. Also at fault was a lack of IMF examinations of their own failures and not enough consideration being given to the political viability of any given loan program.

"Some of the case studies, most notably Pakistan, and a survey of IMF mission chiefs suggest that political considerations have been an important factor in program-related decisions on some occasions," the report found.

The IMF has been trying to reform after it came under intense fire for its handling of the Asian financial crisis of 1997-99. The genesis of the evaluation office began with that debate. The recent report was the first, with others already planned.

The report made a raft of recommendations. Among them were ensuring borrowers develop their own policies and debate them at home before the IMF program is finalized to ensure domestic political support.

The report also said the IMF should make the conditions attached to its loans clearer and prioritize them better to reflect their true importance. It also said the IMF should be willing to turn down more requests for loans and should consider charging higher interest rates to repeat users.

Since the IMF's "seal of approval" is so important to many emerging market economies, the report also suggested the IMF should find other ways to give that approval short of forking out cash—something that would demand better surveillance.

Other suggestions included granting fewer waivers on loans conditions than in the past and that more internal examination be given to its own past failures.

Second opinions on key policy issues would also be helpful, the report said, adding the IMF should try and better analyze the political dynamics in borrowing nations.

While the report will likely provide much fodder for IMF critics, many of the report's recommendations are already under way. Indeed, the IMF in its response welcomed the report and its management has already set up a team to study the recommendations.

That team has been told to report to the lender's board by next April with specific proposals to improve matters. *Reuters*

Ayala's IMI merges with subsidiary

By Doris C. Dumlao

AYALA-controlled semiconductor firm Integrated Microelectronics Inc. yesterday announced it would merge with its subsidiary Eletronic Assemblies Inc. (EAI) to boost the group's ability to compete in the global market.

IMI said in a statement that the merger was approved by the stockholders of both companies last Sept. 17.

The shareholders believed that the merger represented the best strategic alternative for delivering increased value to both companies' stockholders in addressing the challenges and opportunities in a fast-changing global market.

Savings arising from the merger were also seen to effectively sustain IMI's capital requirements and improve its positioning for a initial public offering in the future.

"The merger allows IMI to create a stronger and more efficient operating model which translates to improved earnings. It will also position IMI to attract and retain the best employees who will be working in boundary-less collaboration," IMI president Arthur Tan said.

"We believe that a quick and decisive action is needed to address the business opportunities and challenges facing our business operation. The merger provides stronger partnerships with both our customers and suppliers. The focus is not just cost-reduction synergies, but also synergies that wil generate revenues," Tan explained.

IMI, the fourth biggest revenue earner among Ayala Corp.'s subsidiaries next to Bank of the Philippine Islands, Globe Telecoms and Ayala Land Inc., posted P3.6 billion in revenues in 2001, of which 43 percent was contributed by EAI.

Cojuangco bank's 9-mo profit up

By Elena R. Torrijos

BANK of Commerce, a medium-sized commercial bank, yesterday said its income after tax rose to P257.9 million in the first nine months of this year, more than eight times higher than the net income recorded in the same period last year.

Bank of Commerce attributed its performance to the expansion of its operations, balance sheet management and the development of fee-based transactions.

Net interest income climbed 74.2 percent to P638.2 million over the last 12 months.

"Apart from the upsurge in business volumes, the rise in funds-based revenue could be traced to a rebound in interest spreads. Also worth noting was the rise in fee-based income which soared to P554.5 million, up by 148.8 percent last year," Bank of Commerce said in a statement.

With its full consolidation of Traders Royal Bank branches last July, Bank of Commerce recorded an increase in its funding base to P26.7 billion, 86.7 percent better than the year before.

ATTRACTIVE BENEFITS

Philtoa loads up travel mart with new programs

MORE Philippine corporations are beginning to see the benefits of using attractive and cost-efficient travel-related programs in spurring increased sales and business performance.

This was the assessment of the Philippine Tour Operators Association (Philtoa) which annually organizes the Philippine Travel Mart, the country's largest travel trade exposition.

According to Felix Christopher Alegre, Philtoa president, more corporations are surveying the market for travel-related management programs, as well as productivity, motivational and training schemes.

"These are positive indications that Philippine business is starting to appreciate the value of incentive travel and business programs which use highly coveted packages that involve our domestic destinations, Alegre says.

For this reason, he says, the Philtoa is crafting the 13th Philippine Travel Mart, which is slated in November this year, to be more responsive to the increased need for corporate enhancements through travel.

At the same time, he adds, Philippine tour operators are optimistic about increased domestic movement next year, a summer after the domestic travel sector received much-needed attention to buoy up flagging tourism from the overseas market.

Alegre says domestic tourism performance has benefited from joint government and private sector cooperation to help tourism-related businesses survive the post 9-11 travel chill and general economic challenges.

"Domestic tourism is still headed for an all-time high in our country, but the signs of its development as a lucrative sector for the travel and tourism industry are emerging and are energizing the industry in the process," Alegre says.

Alegre foresees that buyers for the forthcoming 13th PTM will continue to come in increasing numbers because of promotional inroads and expansion in the corporate market. This expectation is also based on the Philippine government's earnest efforts to combat terrorism to improve the peace and order situation in the country.

The 13th PTM is scheduled for Nov. 22 to 24 at the SM Megatrade Halls 1 to 3 at the SM Megamall. Its theme is "Breaking the Barriers to Sustained Growth in Philippine Tourism."

Alegre cited the high visitor volume, exhibitor participation and total sales generated during the 12th Philippine Travel Mart held in Novermber last year.

Philtoa reported that exhibitor participation in the trade fair increased 68 percent over the previous event while generating sales from a total of 41,759 buyers.

A Philtoa venture with the Department of Tourism for the promotion and development of WOW Philippines packages last year has also yielded significant domestic tourism interest from the public. A report by the Philtoa on the usage of the WOW packages last summer and during long weekends provided basis for better domestic travel in the immediate future.

Alegre also attributed the improved climate for domestic tourism to increased tourism appreciation by local governments which exert tremendous influence on the growth and development of tourism in their respective localities.

Cities and provinces with strong and improving tourism industries have the substantial support provided by local governments in common.

(Philtoa has received early bookings for exhibition space for the 13th PTM through its event management team, the Global Visions Events and Marketing Network Inc. It can be reached through 687-7704 and 687-7794 and at email address: gve_mktgnet@pilnet.com.)

We've dug ourselves

US economic recovery remains uneven

WASHINGTON—Low mortgage rates drove housing construction in September to the highest level in 16 years, but the nation's industrial sector showed new signs of stress, confirming that the economic recovery remains uneven.

"Overall, we're walking a tightrope on a breezy day, but we're getting closer and closer to the other side," said Bill Cheney, chief economist at John Hancock Financial Services.

"The absence of really bad news is a positive sign," he said.

The Federal Reserve reported Thursday that industrial production declined in September for the second straight month, and the Labor Department reported that more Americans filed new claims for jobless benefits. But the huge increase in housing construction helped to leaven that news.

"The American dream is becoming a reality as fast as Americans can get a mortgage and find a moving van," said economist Joel Naroff of Naroff Economic Advisors.

The number of housing projects started in September climbed to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.84 million units, a 13.3-percent jump from the previous month, the Commerce Department said.

It was the highest level of housing construction since June 1986.

On Wall Street, the strong housing report along with another wave of positive earnings news from companies such as IBM propelled stocks higher. The Dow Jones industrial average jumped 238.86 points to close at 8,274.89.

Only last month, the government reported that home-building activity in August dropped by 1.5 percent, a decline that made some economists question whether the housing market—a pillar for the economy—might be cracking.

Meanwhile, the fragile industrial sector exhibited new signs of trouble as economic uncertainties, including a possible war with Iraq, weighed on businesses, economists said.

Production at the nation's factories, mines and utilities dipped 0.1 percent in September, following a 0.3-percent decline in August. Output at factories dropped 0.3 percent in September, with production falling for cars, appliances, furniture and carpeting, and industrial machinery. Mining output declined 1.1 percent, while utilities saw production rise 2.4 percent.

The Fed said that part of the drop in overall industrial production came from the effects of tropical storms on oil and gas extraction and petroleum refining around the Gulf of Mexico.

Economists said that while the production news was disappointing, they didn't believe the industrial sector was in danger of sliding back into recession.

"Life will continue to be difficult for our manufacturing firms, but not impossible," said Bill Dunkelberg, chief economist for the National Federation of Independent Business.

Separately, the Labor Department reported that new claims for jobless benefits rose last week by 22,000 to 411,000, a fresh sign of the difficulties facing workers and companies amid the spotty recovery.

Against this backdrop, economists have mixed opinions on whether the Federal Reserve will cut interest rates for the first time this year at its next meeting on Nov. 6.

Low mortgage rates are keeping the housing market in good shape, and home sales are expected to hit record highs this year. The average interest rate on a 30-year mortgage rose to 6.15 percent this week from a 31-year low of 5.98 percent last week, Freddie Mac, the mortgage giant, said Thursday.

Even with the uptick, rates are still remarkably low, feeding a boom in mortgage refinancing. Savings or extra cash coming out of refinancing deals is helping to support consumer spending and home buying amid uncertain economic times and eroding consumer confidence, economists said.

Construction of new single-family homes in September skyrocketed 18.2 percent to a rate of 1.48 million, the highest level since November 1978. But work on apartments and other multi-family housing units dropped 4.4 percent to a rate of 329,000. The rental market has been hurt a bit as low mortgage rates have made it increasingly affordable for people to buy homes, economists said.

By region, housing construction soared in the West by 24.2 percent to a rate of 446,000. In the Midwest, builders broke ground on a rate of 371,000 housing units, an 11.4-percent jump. In the South, housing starts rose 9.8 percent to a rate of 841,000, and in the Northeast they went up 9.5 percent to a rate of 185,000.

"The mood of builders is good," said David Seiders, chief economist at the National Association of Home Builders. "Housing clearly is still one of the bright spots of the economy."

Reuters

Top US banks named in lawsuit over Enron

LOS ANGELES—Citigroup Inc., J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. and other Wall Street banks were named as defendants in a lawsuit filed by a Los Angeles fund management company alleging they aided bankrupt energy trader Enron Corp. in an "unprecedented" fraud.

The lawsuit was filed in Los Angeles Superior Court on Wednesday by two funds run by Oaktree Capital Management and seeks damages against Wall Street's top investment banks for their alleged role in "creating, fueling and profiting" from Enron's complex financial deals.

Bear Stearns, Credit Suisse First Boston, Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette, and Lehman Brothers Inc. were also named as defendants.

Representatives for the brokerages named as defendants could not be immediately reached for comment. Salomon Smith Barney, the investment banking arm of Citigroup, was also named separately as a defendant.

Oaktree claims in its suit that the banks and investment firms "intentionally distorted" figures and concealed facts from ratings agencies and institutional investors while helping Enron obtain billions of dollars in loans that the Houston-based energy giant falsely characterized as prepaid commodity trades.

Citigroup and J.P. Morgan are already under investigation from Congress over questionable finance deals they set up for Enron. The energy trader went bankrupt in December after using a shadowy web of off-balance sheet deals to hide debt and inflate cash flow.

Both banks have said they are cooperating fully with all inquiries.

Reuters

Wall St. shifts to rally mode

NEW YORK—Stocks turned on the afterburners Thursday, resuming their rally after a one-day pause as IBM lifted the cloud on corporate earnings after posting better-than-expected third-quarter results.

The Dow Jones industrials surged 239.01 points (2.97 percent) to 8,274.89, reversing a 220-point decline Wednesday, moving higher in the fifth of the last six sessions.

The broad Standard and Poor's 500 was up 19.18 points (2.23 percent) at 879.20, with the tech-heavy Nasdaq composite up 39.87 points (3.24 percent) at 1,272.29.

The market moved back into an upward trend as part of a recent volatile trend that saw the Dow blue-chip index gain more than 900 points from its five-year low last week, before pulling back in the wake of a weak outlook from Intel.

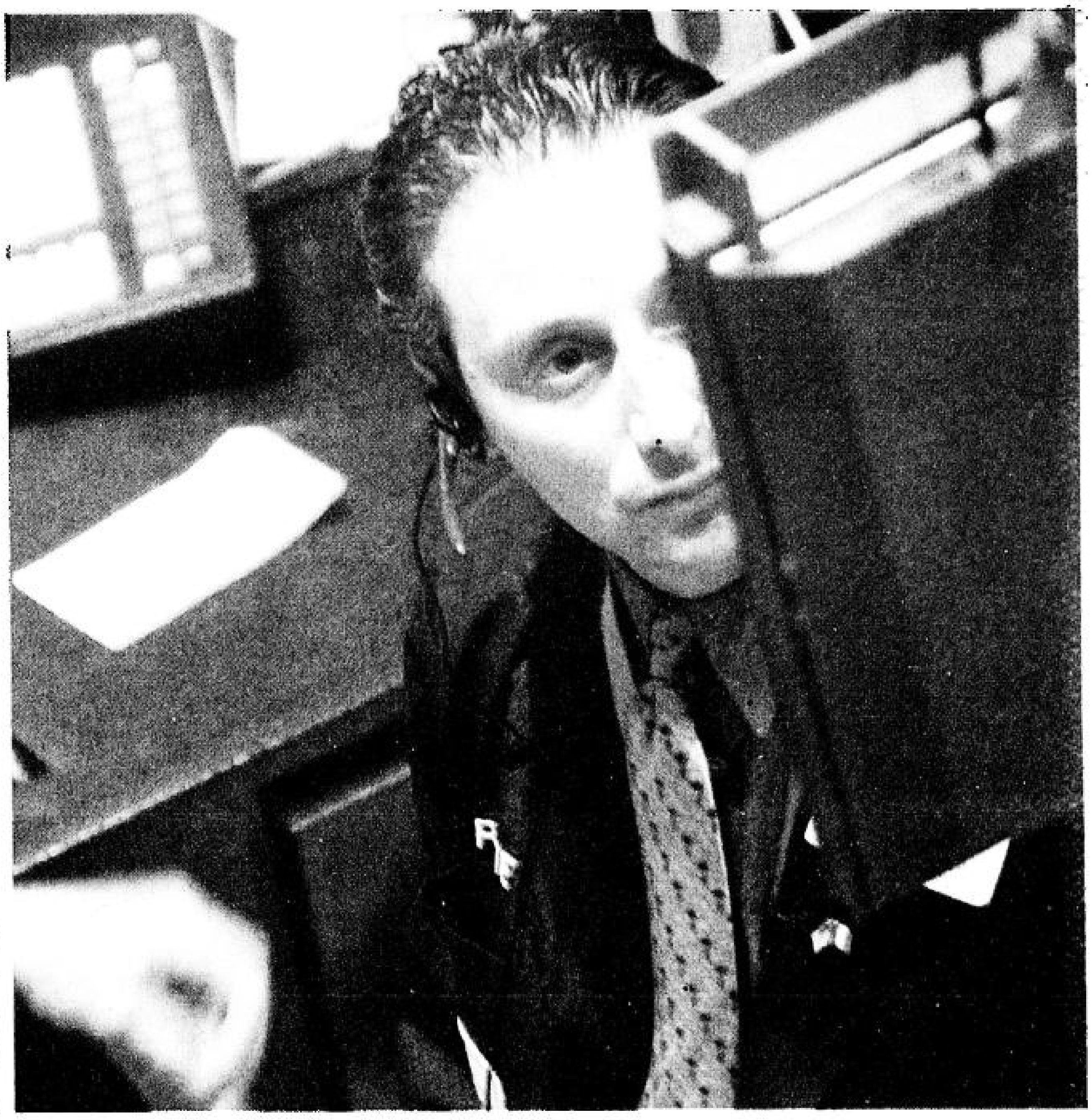
In addition to the IBM report late Wednesday, the positive tone to the market was helped by a strong report showing housing starts increased 13.3 percent in September to the highest level since June 1986.

The market appeared to shrug off reports showing a rise in weekly jobless claims and a 0.1 percent drop in industrial output.

"The IBM announcement was exactly the right palliative for the Intel surprise, which was a negative one," said Mike Holland, fund manager at Holland Balanced Fund.

Holland said investors also welcomed a 13.3-percent rise in housing starts in September, the highest level since June 1986, reassuring the market on the strength of retail spending.

AFP



INSTITUTIONAL Direct Inc. trader Peter Benigno watches a monitor as he works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, just before closing bell in New York. Another wave of positive earnings news from companies such as IBM propelled stocks higher Thursday, giving Wall Street its fifth advance in six sessions. The Dow Jones industrials jumped nearly 240 points.

AP

into a very d hole.
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55 feet deep, in fact. That's how much you need to dig if you're building a 41-storey residential condominium in the heart of Rockwell Center. And now the excavation is complete. Our contractor, Sumitomo Construction of Japan, is already on-site, about to start the actual construction of the Manansala. Units will be ready for turnover as scheduled. Discerning individuals who can recognize and take advantage of a rare opportunity have already bought over 50% of the units.

Yes, the rumors are true. We have dug ourselves a very deep hole. And if you'd like to be here when it becomes the home of your dreams, call or visit us today.

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Koizumi vows 'bold' action on economy

TOKYO—Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi vowed Friday to take "bold" action to pull Japan's economy out of its slump, and stressed the importance of dialogue to resolve concerns over North Korea's nuclear weapons program.

Koizumi, in a policy speech opening a special session of Parliament, promised to speed up Japan's economic recovery, saying he would clean up the bad loans choking Japan's banks and financial system by 2004 and aim for a tax cut of more than 1 trillion yen ($8.33 billion).

"Depending on the economic conditions, we will take bold and flexible measures to ensure the stability of the financial system," he said in a speech full of pledges but thin on new ideas or specific proposals.

With stock prices at 19-year lows, unemployment at a near-record 5.4 percent and corporate bankruptcies at postwar highs, a package of bills aimed at pulling Japan out of its decade-long slump are expected to take priority during the upcoming session.

He began the speech by noting increasing concerns over North Korea.

"Stable peace on the Korean Peninsula is essential," Koizumi said in his speech to open a 57-day special session of Parliament. Stating it was in Japan's national interest, he said negotiators would address the issue in talks with the North scheduled for Oct. 29-30.

He also stressed the importance of ongoing dialogue with North Korea, saying his summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-il last month was an important step toward improving regional security and indicated that Tokyo would press the North on the nuclear issue at working-level talks later this month.

Revelations Thursday that North Korea admitted to the United States this month it has been developing nuclear weapons in violation of an agreement have given new urgency to the talks, which had been scheduled earlier.

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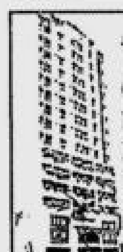

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Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late RAIDISITO JUAN LANSANGAN was extrajudicially settled by his heirs as per Doc. No. 415, Page No. 58, Book III, Series of 2001 under Notary Public Cesar T. Verano of Q.C.
(PDI-Oct.5, 12&19, 2002)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

BANGUS ONLINE Open 4 dealership. Order online! www.bangusonline.com Call 932-8059 • Fax 421-6417

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EARN FR HOME/TRAVEL 8376068

Global Business 0916-9368917

EARN FROM HOME 0917-533-9336

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Successful overseas entrepreneur seeking dynamic individuals to partner in a global franchising business. Email one4season@yahoo.com

EARN THRU PHONE p/time (02)6965632

Last Chance! Mkt Cinema Sqr Oct. 30-Jan 30 P10T/mo. Gigi 818-1964; 0917-5333998

XMAS LITES & TREES Garlands / Gifts Tel 578-8772

ROXAS BLVD. WEEK-END MKT
P250/DAY, NO DEPOSIT Tel: 373-8814/410-1782 Cel 0916-9519287 HURRY! First Come/First Serve! Visit us at the site every Sat.&Sun. START NOV.9

RTW P28.00 Up 727-4934

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"Singaporian Businessman looking for partners to market unique french product and franchise. Pls Call 0920-5077177."

Singaporian Businessman looking for business partner for unique French product & franchise. Pls call cell #09205077177

WE SELL TOPPINGS 4 RICE BOX 716-2570 MS. LANI

USA QUIDEL CORP. Direct Reseller Program. Local Reps 4 Women Med. Prods. 2470 C Kamunsil St., La Salle Ave., Bacolod 6100 Tel (034)432-1934 ZENHENMOSCOM.COM

"URGENT"
JOB OPENINGS

30 PROMO CONSULTANTS

- ✓ With monthly salary + minimum P3,000.00/mo. incentive
- ✓ A chance to be regularized
- ✓ A career opportunity for advancement

QUALIFICATIONS:

- ☑ Female
- ☑ College level
- ☑ 18-25 years old
- ☑ With pleasing personality
- ☑ At least 5'2" in height
- ☑ Related experience is an advantage

30 TELEMARKETERS

QUALIFICATIONS:

- ☑ Male/female
- ☑ College level/College graduate
- ☑ 18-25 years old
- ☑ With good oral and written communication skills
- ☑ Preferably with experience in related position

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS SHOULD BRING THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:

- ➢ Resumé/Biodata with 2x2 ID picture
- ➢ Copy of E1 Form or SSS ID Number
- ➢ Copy of latest NBI Clearance

Interested applicants may apply in person at Unit 26-G Burgundy Corporate Tower, 252 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City

Look for Judy, Del or Jean. From Mondays thru Fridays 8:30-5:30 PM.

APPLICANTS ARE ADVICED TO COME IN BUSINESS ATTIRE.

Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL
SPECIAL DRUGS AND COMMERCIAL COURT
10th Judicial Region
BRANCH 40
Cagayan de Oro City

IN THE MATTER OF PETITION
FOR REHABILITATION AND FOR
THE DECLARATION OF STATE OF
SUSPENSION OF PAYMENTS WITH
APPROVAL OF PROPOSED
REHABILITATION PLAN. SPEC. PRO. NO. 2002-094

OZAMIS MANABAY INDUSTRIES, INC.,
Petitioner.
x - /

STAY ORDER

Before this court is a Petition for Rehabilitation and for the Declaration of State of Suspension of Payments with Approval of Proposed Rehabilitation Plan filed by petitioner Ozamis Manabay Industries, Inc. with principal place of business at Gusa Highway, Cagayan de Oro City on September 11, 2002.

Finding the petition to be sufficient in form and substance, the court hereby issues this Stay Order pursuant to Section 6, Rule 4, Interim Rules of Procedure on Corporate Rehabilitation requiring compliance with the following terms and conditions, to wit:

a) MR. ROGELIO B. BUCAIS, CPA, is hereby appointed as REHABILITATION RECEIVER of the petitioner and his bond fixed at ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P100,000.00);
b) Staying enforcement of all claims, whether for money or otherwise and whether such enforcement is by the court action or otherwise, against the debtor, its guarantors and sureties not solidarily liable with the debtor;
c) Prohibiting the debtor from selling, encumbering, transferring, or disposing in any manner any of its properties except in the ordinary course of business;
d) Prohibiting the debtor from making any payment of its liabilities outstanding as at the date of filing of the petition;
e) Prohibiting the debtor's suppliers of goods or services from withholding supply of goods and services in the ordinary course of business for as long as the debtor makes payments for the services and goods supplied after the issuance of this stay order;
f) Directing the payment in full of all administrative expenses incurred after the issuance of this stay order;
g) Directing all creditors and all interested parties (including the Securities and Exchange Commission) to file and serve on the debtor a verified comment on or opposition to the petition, with supporting affidavits and documents, not later than ten (10) days before the date of the initial hearing and putting them on notice that their failure to do so will bar them from participating in the proceedings; and;
h) Directing the creditors and interested parties to secure from the court copies of the petition and its annexes within such time as to enable themselves to file their comment on or opposition to the petition and to prepare for the initial hearing of the petition.

Pursuant to Section 7, Rule 4 of the aforesaid Interim Rules, the petitioner is hereby directed to immediately serve a copy of this Stay Order on the Rehabilitation Receiver appointed by this court, who shall manifest his acceptance or non-acceptance of his appointment not later than ten (10) days from receipt of this Order and put up his bond within the same period.

The petitioner is likewise directed to publish this Stay Order in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks before the scheduled initial hearing.

The initial hearing on the petition is hereby fixed on November 06, 2002 at 8:30 o'clock in the morning.

SO ORDERED.

Cagayan de Oro City, September 16, 2002.

(Sgd.) HON. EPIFANIO T. NACAYA, CESO V
Presiding Judge

(PDI - Oct. 19, 2002)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

DANTE PADILLA
398 Tres de Abril Street, Cebu City

Please be informed that our Sales Agent for Visayas and Mindanao, **MR. DANTE PADILLA**, whose picture appears herein has been Absent Without Official Leave (AWOL) for over a month now and any transactions made by him shall not be honored. Contact MLO Products, Phil., Metro Manila, Tel. No. 879-0274 for information and/or inquiry.

(PDI – Oct. 19, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Philippine Heart Center will undertake a pre-qualification of the prospective bidders for: a) six (6) months (Jan.-June, 2003) contract for medical/lab., pharma & foodstuff supplies; and b) one (1) year (Jan. - Dec. 2003) contract for security services.

Only accredited bidders/suppliers will be allowed to participate in the bidding

1. Letter of Intent & Company Profile
2. SEC registration
3. Business License
4. List of clients
5. Financial statement (last 2 yrs.)
6. ITR (last 2 yrs.)
7. Location Map of office
8. BFAD Registration/CPR

**secure lists of add'l requirements @ Purchasing Div.

All interested parties are required to submit their pre-qualification documents on or before **Oct. 30, 2002.**

PHC reserves the right to disqualify any prospective bidder/s if found that they have submitted falsified docs., and/or information and the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidders

(Sgd.) **RAUL D. JARA, M.D.**
Chairman, BAC

(PDI--Oct. 19, 20, 26 & 27, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Third Elementary Education Project

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date: October 10, 2002
Loan No. 4106-PH
IFB No. PISU-CO/262002

1 The Government of the Republic of the Philippines (through the Department of Education (DepEd) has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) in various currencies towards the financing of Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for Supply and Delivery of School Furniture to Selected Elementary Schools in the Philippines.

2. The Department of Education (DepEd), Project Implementation Support Unit (PISU) for Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP), now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Supply and Delivery of School Furniture.

Province/Item	Quantity	
	Desk	Armchair
Ifugao	1,543	3,924
Antique	9,337	6,262
S. Leyte	4,656	8,060
Agusan del Sur	3,281	17,528
Cotabato	5,633	5,249
Zamboanga del Sur	8,682	12,576
Total	**33,132**	**53,597**

Project or delivery sites are the District Offices located in 6 provinces under the Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP). A bidder may submit a bid for any or all of the items indicated above.

3. For the purpose of this bidding, eligible bidders shall be those who have experience in the supply or selling and distribution and delivery of school furniture to remote areas in a developing country like the Philippines. The Purchaser will grant a margin of preference to goods manufactured in the Philippines.

4. Interested eligible bidders may inspect the bidding documents at or obtain further information from the Office of Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) for Foreign Assisted Projects, Ground Floor, Mabini Bldg., DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Tel. No. (632) 636-6543 or 632-1361 local 2019, Fax No. (632) 636-6543, http://www.decs.gov.ph

5. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting **October 14, 2002** upon submission of letter of intent to the above and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00).

6. Bidding will be conducted through the International competitive bidding (ICB) procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement Under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines.

7. Bids must be delivered to the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Building I, Department of Education, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines, on or before 2:30 p.m. on **November 26, 2002** and must be accompanied by a security of not less than two (2) percent of the total bid price.

8. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 2:30 p.m. on **November 26, 2002** at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Building I, Department of Education, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City.

9. Prior to bid opening, a pre-bid conference will be held on **November 12, 2002, 10:00 a.m.** at the address indicated in paragraph 8.

(Sgd.) **RAMON C. BACANI**
Undersecretary and
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Oct. 12, 15 & 19, 2002)

LEYTE V ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
P.O. Box 162 Ormoc City 6541
Tel. Nos.: (053) 561-4075/(053) 561-4111
Telefax: (053) 255-7211 E-mail: leyeco5@ormoc.weblinq.com

INVITATION TO BID

The Leyte V Electric Cooperative, Inc. (LEYECO V) Brgy. San Pablo, Ormoc City, Leyte, invites all eligible suppliers to submit bids for the supply of one (1) unit infrared/thermal scanner.

Bid documents shall be issued to interested bidders upon payment of non-refundable fee in the amount of five hundred (P500.00) pesos starting **October 21, 2002.**

Sealed bids will be received by the Pre-bids and Awards Committee (PBAC), at LEYECO V Main Office in Brgy. San Pablo, Ormoc City, Leyte on or before **October 30, 2002** at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon, at which time and place said proposals will be opened and read in the presence of bidders or their authorized representatives.

For purposes of clarifying issues, a Pre-Bid conference will be held on **October 24, 2002** at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon at LEYECO V Office, Brgy. San Pablo, Ormoc City, Leyte.

LEYECO V reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any minor defects of informalities therein and to accept any or all offers or proposals as may be considered most responsive and advantageous to the Cooperative. It assumes no obligations whatsoever for any expenses or loss that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **JOVENAL R. ALESNA**
General Manager

(PDI--Oct. 19, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council
HOUSING AND LAND USE REGULATORY BOARD

INVITATION TO BID

The HOUSING AND LAND USE REGULATORY BOARD (HLURB) invites interested parties to a public bidding for the reproduction of HLURB Planning Guidelines (10 volumes, 500 copies each) on **31 October 2002** at exactly 2:00 p.m. Board Room, HLURB Bldg., Kalayaan Avenue cor. Mayaman St., Diliman, Quezon City.

Bid forms and instructions to bidders are available during office hours at the General Services Division, Ground Floor, HLURB Bldg., Kalayaan Avenue cor. Mayaman St., Diliman, Quezon City.

Request for clarification and other inquiries may be addressed to the said office in writing or in person before the bidding with Telephone No. **924-3372**.

HLURB reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive any required formalities in the bids received and to accept such bids, which are considered advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **FRANCISCO L. DAGÑALAN**
Commissioner & Chairman
Bids, Awards & Contract Review Committee

(PDI - Oct 19, 2002)

CAGAYAN II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Aparri, Cagayan

INVITATION TO BID

CAGELCO II is inviting all bidders for the sale of the following described property:

Residential Lot most particularly described:

> *"Cadastral Lot No. 172, bounded on the north by Quirino St., South, Lots 174-175-B, East, Enrile St. and West, Luna St. with a total land area of 1,862 sq. meters"*

Location Enrile St., Aparri, Cagayan and popularly called the CAGELCO II Warehouse Lot

Minimum/Base Bid — PhP2,000 per sq. meter

All bids must be submitted on a sealed envelope accompanied by a bid security equivalent to 5% of the bid price in the form of cash or Manager/Cashier's check.

All expenses incidental to the transfer in favor of the winning bidder shall be at his/her expense.

Sealed bid shall be accepted and opened by the Pre-Bid and Awards Committee (PBAC) with the presence of the bidder/s, on **November 6, 2002** at 10:00 in the morning, Administration Building, Macanaya District, Aparri, Cagayan.

The winning bidder shall be required to pay the remaining balance within thirty (30) days from the date of the bidding, otherwise, the bid shall be cancelled.

Additional information may be furnished upon request or may call telephone numbers (078) 822-8506 or (078) 888-2308.

CAGELCO II reserves the right to reject any/or all bids without any reason, waive any required formality therein, accept proposals most advantageous to the Cooperative and assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify any bidder for expenses or losses that may be incurred in the preparation of bid nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **GABRIEL A. TORDESILLAS**
General Manager

(PDI - Oct. 19 & 26, 2002)

Ciba Specialty Chemicals

Ciba Specialty Chemicals is a leading company dedicated to producing high-value effects for customers around the world—our products enhance the performance, look and feel of finished goods.

We invite dedicated and suitably qualified candidates to join our Water & Paper Treatment Segment as:

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The Job:
Reporting to the Country Sales Head in Philippines, the successful candidate will be responsible for the maintenance of new and existing accounts in the region and develop partner relationships with them. You will also provide technical support and offer effective solutions to improve our customers' products.

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The ideal candidate will have in-depth knowledge of the Paper industry in the region. You should possess a recognised Degree in Chemistry with at least 2 years' relevant experience. Some knowledge of retention chemicals will be preferred.

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Please write in with full resume, stating current and expected salaries and a photograph to:

The Human Resources Department
Ciba Specialty Chemicals Services Inc.
Unit 1701 Antel 2000 Corporate Center
121 Valero Street, Salcedo Village
PH-1260 Makati City
Fax: +65 68906111
Email: recruit.sg@cibasc.com
Closing Date: 2 November 2002

(We regret that only shortlisted candidates will be notified.)

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FOR SALE BY SEALED BIDS
"AS-IS-WHERE-IS"

SALE OF USED ADB DESKTOP AND NOTEBOOK COMPUTER EQUIPMENT, PRINTERS, PERIPHERALS, UNINTERRUPTED POWER SUPPLY (UPS), CONTROL PANELS, BUILDING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (BMS) EQUIPMENT AND ACCESSORIES AND OBSOLETE PRINTING, REPRODUCTION AND COMPUTER RELATED AND OFFICE SUPPLIES.

ABOVE ITEMS MAY BE INSPECTED STARTING **21 OCTOBER 2002 UP TO 30 OCTOBER 2002 FROM 9:00 A.M. TO 11:00 A.M. AND FROM 2:00 P.M. TO 4:00 P.M.** MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS, AT THE MATERIALS MANAGEMENT UNIT, ADB HEADQUARTERS BLDG., NO. 6 ADB AVENUE, MANDALUYONG CITY, METRO MANILA.

THE SALE WILL BE ON AN "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" BASIS. PARTICULARS REGARDING THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE, INCLUDING BID FORMS, MAY BE OBTAINED UPON REQUEST FROM THE MATERIALS MANAGEMENT UNIT (MMU), ROOM G923.

BIDS WILL BE ACCEPTED UP TO 2:00 P.M. ON 4 NOVEMBER 2002. BIDS WILL BE OPENED AT 10:00 A.M. ON 5 NOVEMBER 2002 AT THE OAS CONFERENCE ROOM (RM. 4522). BIDDERS WISHING TO ATTEND THE BID OPENING ARE WELCOME TO DO SO.

BIDDERS ARE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT A BID DEPOSIT BY MANAGER'S OR CASHIER'S CHECK IN AN AMOUNT EQUIVALENT TO AT LEAST TEN (10) PERCENT OF THE BID AMOUNT, TOGETHER WITH THE DULY ACCOMPLISHED BID FORMS IN A SEALED ENVELOPE.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT: THE MATERIALS MANAGEMENT UNIT
TELEPHONE NOS. 632-4316/4317

(PDI--Oct. 19 & 20, 2002)

Trans Co.
NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE OF SCRAP/UNSERVICEABLE ITEMS
"AS IS, WHERE IS"

DATE AND TIME OF BIDDING : NOVEMBER 6, 2002 AT 2:00 P.M.

The National Transmission Corporation, South Luzon Regional Operations and Maintenance invites interested parties to bid on various scrap/unserviceable materials listed below;

Description of Unserviceable Items	Qty/UM	Min. Bid
One (1) Lot Scrap Materials & Equipment in two (2) I & I Reports composed of the following: Insulators, suspension porcelain type, Cap & Pin type, insulator post type, potential and distribution transformers, oil circuit breaker bushings, steel frame channel with motors & wire ropes, extension steel for boom truck, lighting arresters, reclosers, assorted scrap items – tower parts, overhead ground wires, aircon unit, cubicles, plastic bottles, steel cabinets: disconnect switches, current transformers, water tanks, used tires.	1 Lot	P187,000.00

Bid in the prescribed form shall be enclosed in a sealed envelope and shall be received **until 12:00 noon of November 6, 2002** and shall be open at exactly 2:00 P.M. All bids must be submitted at NTC SLT Bidding Room, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna with the following;

1. Bidder's bond in the form of Cash and/or Manager's Check 5% of the total bid price.
2. Latest Income Tax Return and/or Financial Statement of the Company.

Additional information such as request for inspection and bid form may be obtained from NTC South Luzon Transco with Tel. # 5208213. Payment of prescribed form and other particular is P50.00 per set which is not refundable.

The Corporation reserves the right any or all bids, waives formalities found therein and accept offer advantageous to National Transmission Corporation.

(Sgd.) **R.D. RAMAS**
Manager, Admin-SLT
& Chairman, RAMSUC

(PDI - Oct. 19, 2002)

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☑ PROMPT, RELIABLE and PERSONALIZED SERVICE

OBITUARIES

YORK (U.S.A.) CASKETS
... because they deserve only the best.
*For more information, please call your funeral director.

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures,
He leads me beside still waters,
He restores my soul."
Psalm 23:1:2

JOSE P. PALMA

Peacefully joined his Creator on October 16, 2002 at the age of 81.

His loving wife **Purita**; children **Julie**, **Joey** & **Cathy**, **Margie** (†), **Leila** & **Jojo**, and **Carmen**; his grandchildren **Josyn** & **Anton**, **Gerald** & **Michael**, **Micky** & **Andrea**, and **Michelle**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Holy Trinity Chapel, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Funeral Mass will be held at 1:00 PM on Sunday, October 20, 2002 at Holy Trinity Chapel. Cremation will immediately follow.

In Loving Memory
On the
First Death Anniversary
of

REV. FR. EMILIO SERRANO SARIBONG

18 December 1943 – 20 October 2001

Masses and prayers will be offered at the following churches on Oct. 20, 2002:

- **St. James the Greater Parish**
  Libon, Albay
- **Immaculate Conception Parish**
  Virac, Catanduanes
- **Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish**
  Tambongon, Catanduanes
- **St. Joseph the Worker Parish**
  Oco Catanduanes
- **St. Isidore the Farmer Parish**
  Gigmoto Catanduanes
- **St. Anthony of Padua Parish**
  Bagamanoc Catanduanes
- **St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish**
  Pandan Catanduanes

His brother **Tony**, relatives and friends extend their sincerest thanks to all those who continue to remember and include him in their prayers.

We've added another dignified service to keep the memory of your departed loved ones.
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
CREMATORY SERVICES
ON CALL 24 HOURS A DAY
102 years
143 G. Araneta Avenue corner Kaliraya Street, Quezon City
Telephone Nos.: 749-3806 to 11 • 712-3001 • 743-6502
743-6505 • 743-6508 • Fax No.: 712-2782

Atty. ROMMEL GO FUENTES

Died peacefully in the Grace of Our Lord on 17 October 2002 at the age of 46.

His bereaved wife, **Bernadette**, his son **Erwin Rommel**, Mother, Brothers and Sisters and In-laws, Nephews and Nieces and other relatives, request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Ellinwood Malate Church Chapel, Vasquez Street, Malate, Manila until noon of 19 October 2002, then will be brought to Ozamiz City.

Interment will be at Ozamiz City.

In Loving Memory
on the Ninth Death Anniversary of

REMIGIO M. LILLES

June 7, 1925 - October 20, 1993

Masses will be offered tomorrow, October 20, 2002 at the following Churches:

Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes .... 6:30 a.m., 7:45 a.m.
9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m.
12:00 nn & 4:30 p.m.
San Agustin Chapel, Dasmariñas, Village .... 8:00 a.m.
Christ the King Church,
Greenmeadows, Quezon City .... 6:30 a.m. & 7:30 a.m.
St. James the Great, Ayala Alabang .... 10:00 a.m.
St. Paul the Apostle,
Mother Ignacia Street, Quezon City .... 9:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.

His family: **Lita Dizon Lilles**, **Cindy** and **Jim Maceda**, **Robert** and **Cecile**, **Isabel**, **Ayrton**, **Sophia** and **Amaya**, **Tony** and **Marlyn**, **Maia** and **Miela** and **Patricia** request relatives, friends and the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Luciano V. Jalijali

Formerly of the Credit and Collection Department
of The Manila Times, Daily Express
and Times Journal

Joined his Creator on 17 October 2002 at the age of 71.

He is survived by his wife **Cecilia Olmedo Jalijali**; son **Rene Luis** and **Joan**; daughter **Carmen Rowena**; grandchildren **Issa** & **Tata**; brothers and sisters, nephews and nieces, and other relatives.

Interment will be on Sunday, 20 October 2002 after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City. The body lies in state at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat, Parañaque.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord". 2 Corinthians 5:8

"When my last sigh shall compel my
soul to leave the body, receive it,
O Lord, as sign of my longing to fly to You...."

Our Dearly Beloved

Pedro A. Bay Jr.

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on October 18, 2002 at the age of 69.

His beloved wife **Ana**; children **Bang** and **Vic Leaño**, **Ricky** and **Marissa**, **Butch** and **Jolly Ann**, **Onie** and **Rod MacGowan**, **Eggie** and **Amy**, **Cuckoo**, **Esme**, **Karmina** and **Rona**, together with his brother and sisters, grandchildren, relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, October 23 after the 9 a.m. Mass.

FELISA I. FORTICH

(11 June 1920 – 15 October 2002)

Has joined her husband "**Mario**" and now rests in the most loving embrace of our Lord at the age of 82.

Her children, **Esperanza**, **Rosalyn-Aleth**, **Chona-Douglas** (†), **Lilian-Uwe**, **Maria Fe-Leo**, **Rosemarie**, **Mario, Jr.-Sylvia**, and **Susan**;
And her grandchildren, **Kenneth** and **Cookie**, **Chrissie**, **Doods**, **Weepee** and **Gabby**, **Daniel**, **Thomas** and **Lianne**, and **Mickey** and **Patrick** request for prayers for her eternal happiness.

Her remains lie in state at #4 G. Mendoza Street, Tagbilaran City, Bohol.

Interment will be tomorrow, 20 October 2002 at the Mason Cemetery, Tagbilaran City, Bohol.

In Loving Memory
on the Seventh Death Anniversary
of our beloved

DR. RAMON R. ANGELES

Died October 19, 1995

Let us keep his memory alive and offer prayers for his eternal peace and happiness in our Lord.

Mass will be held at the Sacred Heart Parish Church Kamuning, Quezon City at 7:00 AM.

ERRATUM

In the obituary ad of the late

ANTHONY JOHN "TONY" DI FILIPPO

published in this paper October 18, 2002 his bereaved wife's name should be **SUSAN SUAREZ DI FILIPPO** instead of Susan Suarez Di Flippo.

Our apologies.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.
OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)
WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL
12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Tels. 715-1025; 715-1031; 715-1027
ARLINGTON EAST THE GARDEN CHAPELS
C. Raymundo St. cor. Mercedes Ave., San Miguel Ave., Pasig City. Tels. 747-8599, 747-8009 • Telefax 641-1760
AUREA QUIOGUE FUNERAL HOMES
243 A.B. Fernandez Ave., Dagupan City, Pangasinan. Tels. (075) 522-3451; 522-2120; (0917) 434-9976
CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch: A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu. Tels. 346-2543; 346-2601
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City. Tels. 231-0721, 231-3192
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
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Boy lost at lunch!
details on p2

SATURDAY Special

Editor Nestor U. Torre ◉ Associate Editor Edmund L. Sicam

HOPKINS. Bent on really baring Hannibal's evil nature.

Anthony Hopkins adds extra bite to Hannibal in 'Dragon'

By Estelle Shirbon

ROME—If anyone thinks "Hannibal the Cannibal" is perhaps just a misunderstood guy because of an unusual taste in food, Anthony Hopkins wants them to digest the terrible truth.

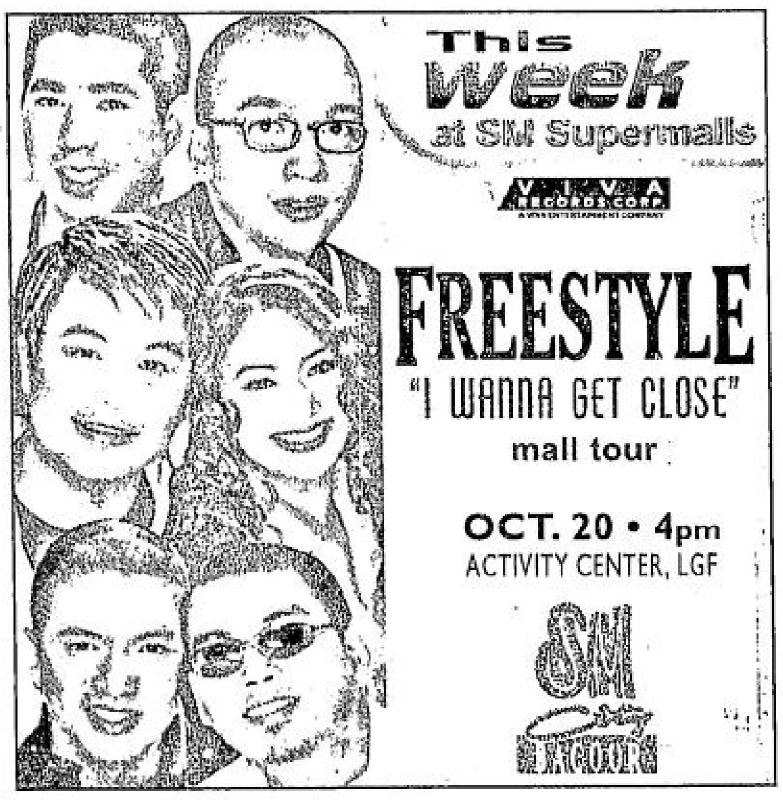
Nuts

"I think he's nuts, basically," the British-born actor told a news conference ahead of the Italian premiere of the film "Red Dragon," in which he plays the man-eating psychiatrist for the third time.

Hopkins said he had almost lost his appetite for the role after the 2001 film "Hannibal," but had finally agreed to don the prison suit once more on condition he could really bare the doctor's evil nature.

"I wanted to play him more dangerously, more savagely, not so charming as he was in 'Silence.' Because he is, after all, a killer," said

ANTHONY/ C2



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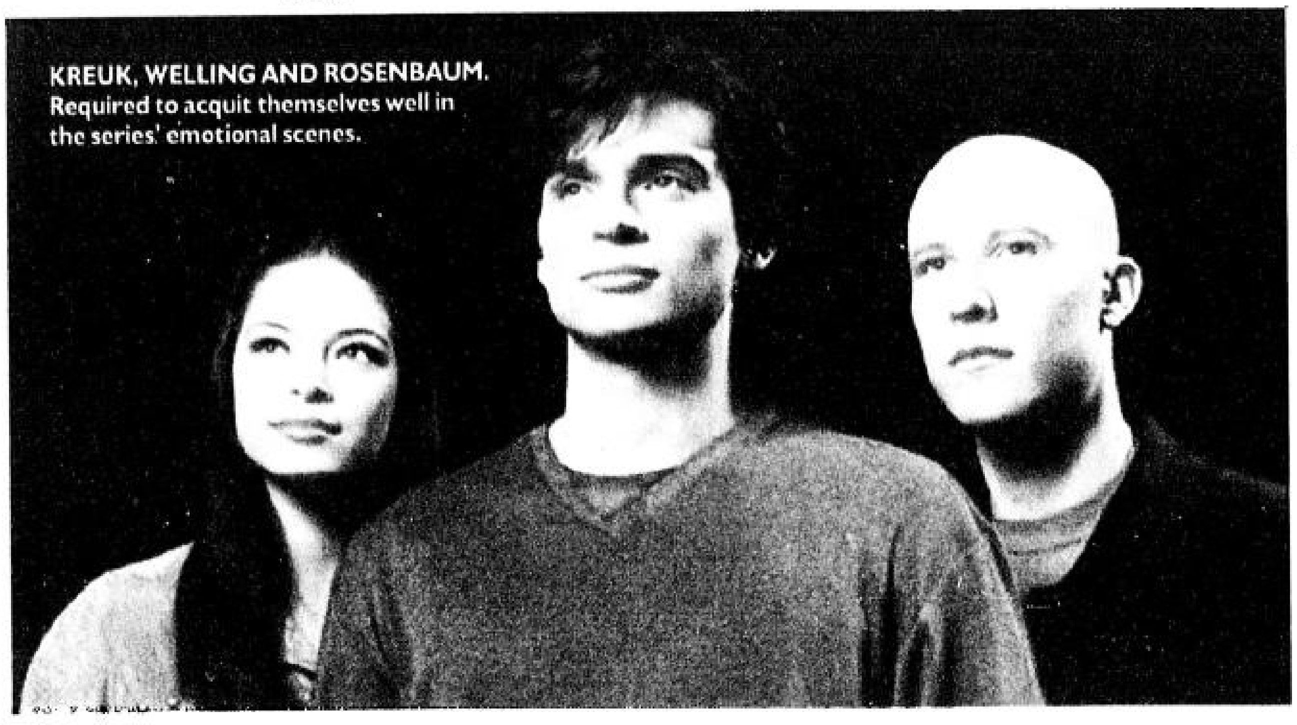
Young stars come on strong in 'Smallville'



KREUK, WELLING AND ROSENBAUM. Required to acquit themselves well in the series' emotional scenes.

By Nestor U. Torre

THE MORE psychological thrust of "Smallville," the new TV series on Studio 23 (9 p.m., Tuesdays) about Clark Kent/Superman as a teenager, makes greater demands than usual on the thespic abilities of its young leads. The show's young stars aren't required only to look cute, sexy or hunky, but also to acquit themselves well in the series' emotional scenes.

Rankling problems

And there are emotions aplenty, because the young protagonists and antagonists here all have rankling problems to solve. Clark Kent is an odd-man-out from outer space who finds himself lonely and lost on planet Earth.

Lex Luthor, his best friend *and* future nemesis, has had a warped childhood, no thanks to his hard-hearted dad, a wealthy industrialist who cares only about his financial empire.

And Lana Lang, Clark's secret crush, lost both her parents during the meteor "attack" of 1989. Despite her beauty and popularity, she's really just a lonely little girl at heart.

After a long search and many auditions, the series' producers chose three young actors who had both looks and talent to play these three major characters in "Smallville":

Plum role

Clark Kent is tall, hunky but also "vulnerable"-looking Tom Welling. He clinched the plum role after a long audition process. He may look young, but he's quite experienced as far as acting goes.

He honed his acting skills in high-school theater, and first made waves on the small screen in "Judging Amy," where he played Amy Brenneman's boyfriend.

Lex Luthor is Michael Rosenbaum. Villains are often more difficult to play well than lead characters, so Rosenbaum's extensive acting experience sure comes in handy here.

It isn't easy playing a best friend *and* future nemesis, so the young actor makes full use of the thespic savvy he's gained from acting in films like "Sweet November," "Sorority Boys," "Urban Legend" and "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil."

Superhero

Interestingly and ironically, Rosenbaum also plays a superhero on another TV show, "Justice League." However, that series is an animated production, so he only voices his superhero character in it.

Finally, Lana Lang is played by Kristin Kreuk, who honed her acting talent on "Edgemont," a popular TV series produced in Vancouver, British Columbia, where the pert young actress grew up. Aside from "Smallville," Kreuk also acts in made-for-TV movies like "Snow White," where she stars with Miranda Richardson.

"Smallville" has many other roles for teen actors, and they are filled by other young comers. But the new series generally re-

YOUNG/C3

'Amelie' director picks WWI love story for next film

PARIS—The director of the whimsical French hit "Amelie," Jean-Pierre Jeunet, has chosen his next project: a mystery/love story set in World War I and based on the bestselling book "A Very Long Engagement" by French author Sebastien Japrisot.

Script

Warner Bros. France, which is backing the French-language production, said Jeunet would write the script of the movie, as he did with "Amelie," and that shooting would start next year.

"We're very happy at the idea of working on such a fantastic project with an auteur and director as talented as Jean-Pierre Jeunet," the studio said in a statement.

Jeunet, who had been keeping quiet on his plans up to now, said: "I've been waiting 10 years for this. Japrisot's novel is a wonderful story about love, hope and determination.

Intricate story

"I could read it 10 times over, and 10 times over I'd cry. I promise here and now that I will do all I can to do this masterpiece justice." The intricate story is that of a woman whose fiance is said to be killed during the war, but who sets out to discover what really happened to him. *AFP*

Anthony . . .

From page C1

the actor, who won an Oscar for his turn as Hannibal Lecter in the 1991 film "Silence of the Lambs." "I couldn't reinvent him but I wanted to repress some of the clever witticisms, the sophistication . . . I wanted to show the audience, to reveal the nature of this diabolical, twisted mind, to show how dangerous he is."

FBI agent

In "Red Dragon," Edward Norton plays an FBI agent who uses his jailed nemesis, Lecter, to help him track down another serial killer, played by Ralph Fiennes. Harvey Keitel and Emily Watson also star.

The film, directed by Brett Ratner, grossed $37.5 million at the US box office in its first weekend, setting a new record for a film opening in October, and its 10-day total rose to $63.2 million.

Hopkins said while he enjoyed playing the psychopathic Lecter, he treated it as a job and felt no blurring between the cannibal's personality and his own.

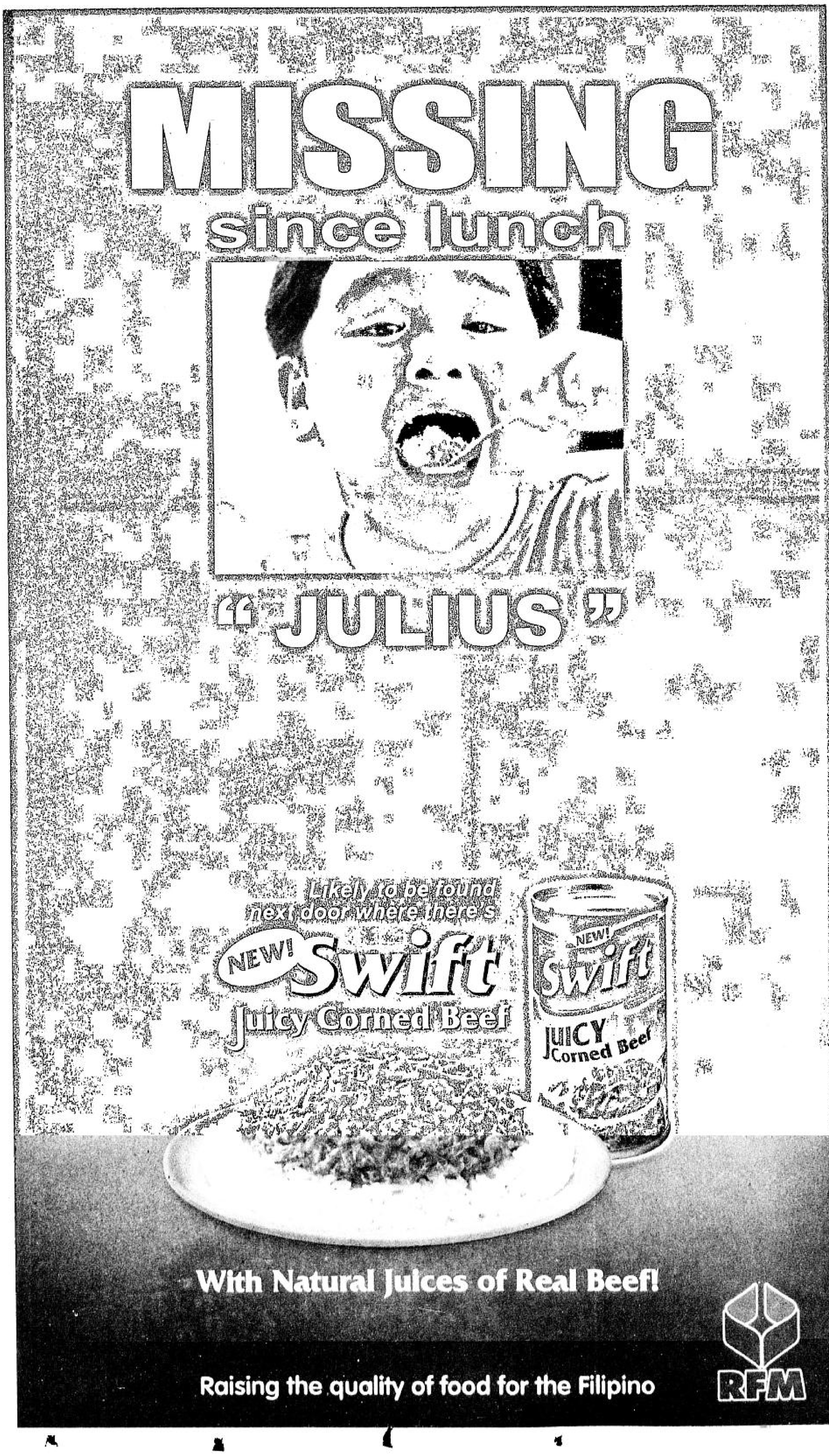
"I have breakfast in the morning, I change into my prison clothes, I have coffee, I go into my cell," he said, describing life on the sets of the Hannibal movies.

"When they let me out of my cell I go and have another coffee, or maybe lunch with Ed Norton, or Jodie Foster (who co-starred in "Silence"). I don't attack them.

"It's all magic, a conjuring trick, hypnosis," he said, adding he needed no secret recipe to sink his teeth into the role.

"All the information I need on any new character is in the script itself. I don't need to sit in an asylum to be Hannibal Lecter." Asked whether a fourth Hannibal film was on the menu, Hopkins said probably not, although he could not rule it out.

"I personally think three is a magic number . . . four would be pushing the envelope a bit . . . but I can't say yes or no." *Reuters*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Young. . .

From page C2

volves around the characters of Clark Kent, Lex Luthor and Lana Lang, so its provides the best showcase for the talents of Tom Welling, Michael Rosenbaum, and Kristin Kreuk.

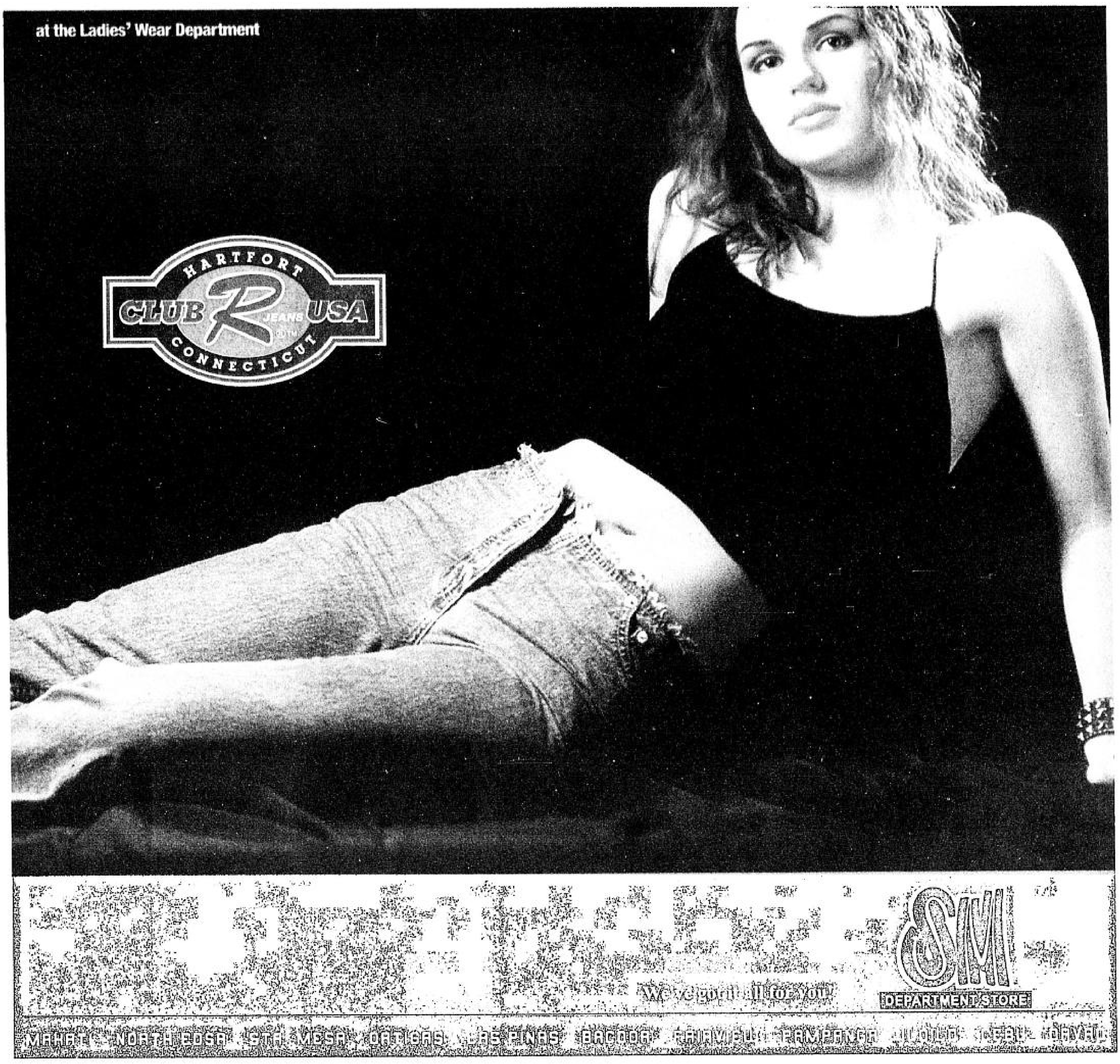
Best scenes

Who of these three young stars comes off best in the show? Well, it's important to the series' success that young viewers get excited about Clark Kent, so Welling is given the best scenes, and has become *the* hunky-yet-vulnerable TV sensation of the year.

As for Kreuk, she's a big hit with young male viewers because she's sweet *and* sexy. But Rosenbaum turns in the most interesting performance because he is able to project a beguiling sense of goodness that is just beginning to sour into evil.

He's also one of the most versatile young talents around. We saw him in the teen comedy film, "Sorority Boys," and he was very off-the-wall there, cracking jokes and cross-dressing for all he was worth. As Lex Luthor, he comes off as a totally different person.

It's clear, however, that as far as young TV-film stardom is concerned, the show's best bets are Tom Welling and Kristin Kreuk. Well, that's the way the casting cokie crumbles.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McDonald's Lau

Partners with DepEd – NC

One of the pilot schools in NCR that will benefit from the ***Bright Minds Read*** *program*

Tomorrow begins today.

And with this declaration, McDonald's Philippi
Joseph Lau, formally launched the world's leading
latest effort to help the children of the Philippin

McDonald's is giving elementary education a
launch of ***Bright Minds Read***, a campaign that h
children to develop a love for reading.

Bright Minds Read is the company's response t
concerning elementary educators: reading.

These educators note that a growing number of ch
to read at a later age.

McDonald's and DepEd-NCR:

Partners for Educational Progress

From being a bastion of learning in this part of the world, the Philippines now seems to be grasping at straws in education. In 1995, the country scored second to the last in a field of 41 at the Third International Mathematics and Science Study. Analysis of the scores pointed out poor comprehension on the part of the students. In 1998, students taking the National Elementary Achievement Test averaged only a 50% score – the fifth year in a row that the test reflected that graduating elementary school students had only mastered half of what they were supposed to learn.

It became apparent to education officials that one of the reasons for the decline in academic performance was the increase in the number of non-readers within the elementary level – students who could not afford to advance in the comprehension of lessons simply because they could not read.

Support for Education in the Philippines

Arresting the problem of non-readers, as well as improving the quality of education in general has been a daunting task for the education sector, which has been awash with problems of its own. There is a pronounced shortage of classrooms in the Philippines, with schoolchildren squeezing in, sixty to seventy a section, in rooms built for thirty. There is a lack of textbooks and other instructional materials. There is a scarcity of teachers. These problems, compounded by the poverty and malnutrition under which numerous young students live, have promoted education officials to turn to the private sector for support.

Under its Adopt-A-School program, the Department of Education (DepEd) creates partnerships with corporations, foundations, non-government organizations (NGOs), private schools, civic organizations and individuals to provide much-needed assistance and service to public schools.

The program is a pro-poor movement that aims to ensure access to quality education for the Filipino youth.

McDonald's Offers a Helping Hand

McDonald's has offered its help to the Department of Education, and has signed up as a Donor of the Adopt-A-School program, via the ***Bright Minds Read*** campaign. Fourteen schools, representing each of the divisions of the Department of Education – National Capital Region are the beneficiaries of the campaign.

The company's involvement in the program is in keeping with its long-standing commitment to supporting causes that benefit children. In 1996, McDonald's established its charity arm, Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) Philippines. RMHC has been supporting several similar-minded institutions, such as the Tuloy Foundation, which gives scholarships to streetchildren; the Leukemic Indigent Fund Endowment (LIFE), which raises funds for the chemotherapy treatments of indigent leukemics; St. Luke's Expanded Program of Immunization, which provides primary health care to St. Luke's pediatric social service patients; the Welcome Home Foundation, which extends scholarships to deaf children; Resources for the Blind, (which produces Braille textbooks); as well as Operation Smile and Interplast, both of which offer free facial reconstructive surgery to children.

High Hopes for Bright Minds Read

DepEd-NCR has high hopes for the project.

"I am glad McDonald's is embarking on this project with NCR as its pilot area," enthuses Dr. Corazon Santiago, Regional Director for DepEd-NCR. "So many educational programs have been launched for Science, Math and Computer Education, but very few have focused on reading. This is the first time a company is offering to assist with helping kids get back to the reading habit by going a step beyond just donating books."

Mr. Joseph Lau, Managing Director of McDonald's Philippines, is likewise optimistic:

"We cannot solve the problems of education all at once but we aim to help where we can," he says.

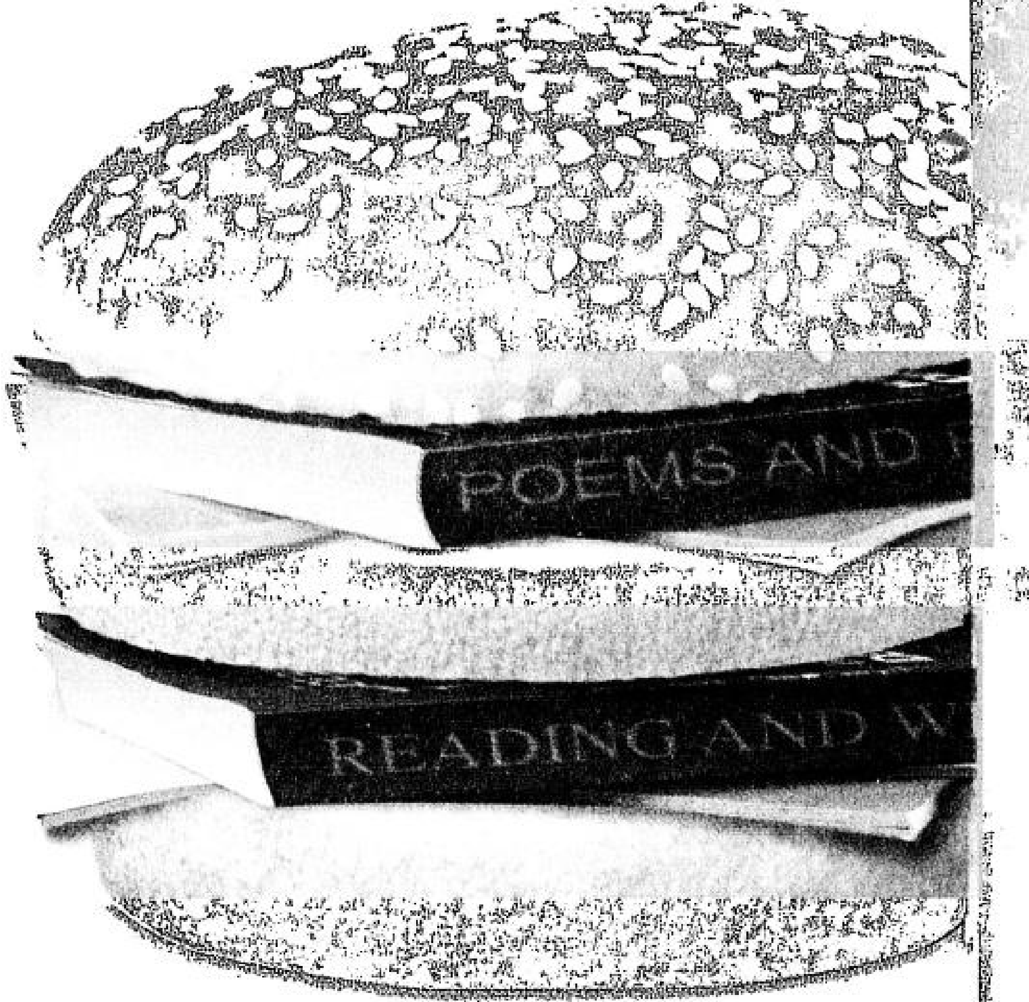
Around the world, McDonald's has built a reputation of giving back to the communities it serves. With the Department of Education as a partner, the company hopes to open doors to a bright future for many young minds.

from McDonald's and the Department

Dr. Corazon Santiago, Regional Director for DepEd-NCR, Ronald Mcdonald, and Joseph Lau, McDonald's Philippines Managing Director at a MOA signing ceremony held recently. The partnership is for ***Bright Minds Read****, a reading campaign for Grade One public school students in the NCR.*

nches Bright Minds Read

R to Encourage Reading for Children



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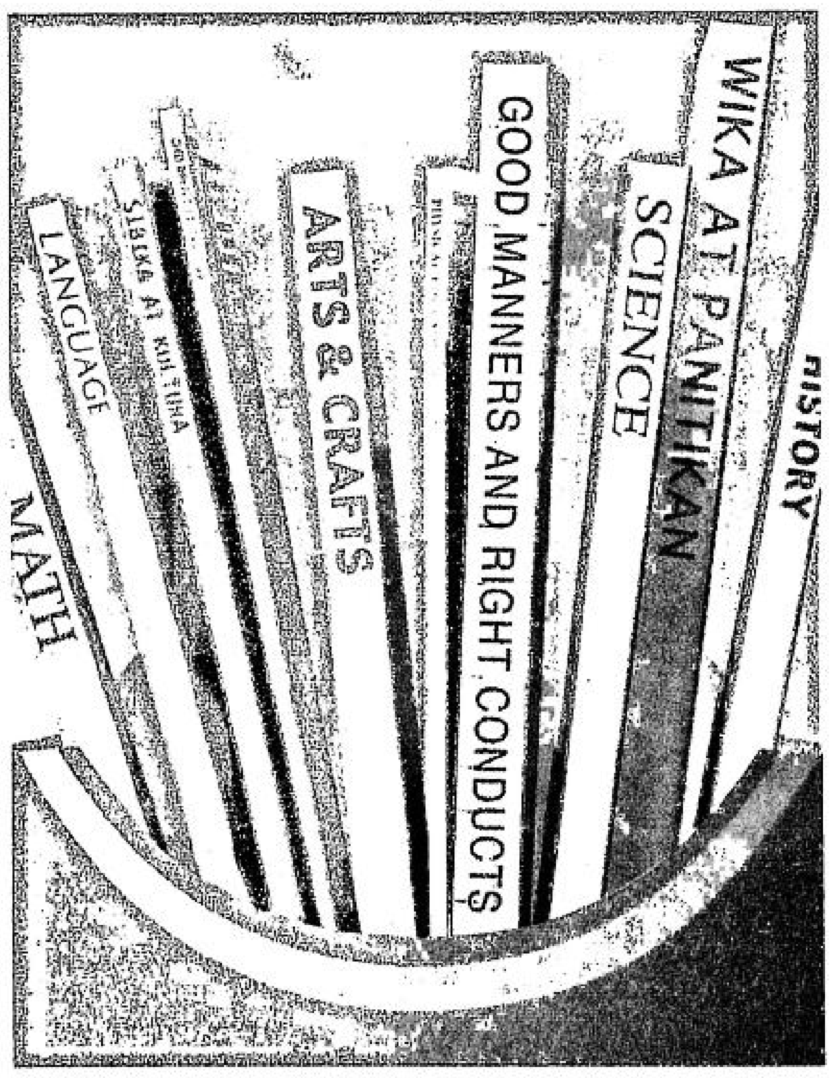
a problem increasingly

ldren are now beginning

"At the same time, the children who do know how to read, no longer read as much as in previous years," laments Dr. Corazon Santiago, Director of the Department of Education – National Capital Region.

The ***Bright Minds Read*** campaign seeks to address these twin issues by promoting reading on two fronts: offering training for those who teach reading, and providing workbooks for their students. It will be implemented in selected schools under the jurisdiction of the Department of Education – National Capital Region.

Through the campaign, McDonald's hopes to inspire more children to learn to read – then read to learn.



How to Build Bright Minds

At the recent launch of ***Bright Minds Read*** at Cubao's P. Bernardo Elementary School, both McDonald's and the Department of Education – National Capital Region bared their plans for their reading campaign.

According to McDonald's Managing Director Joseph Lau, the campaign will contain three key components: a teacher-training program, wherein the company has commissioned book publisher Adarna House to manage the creation of reading workbooks (also by Adarna); and a reading tour of various schools, led by Ronald McDonald himself. The teacher-training program aims to equip elementary educators with updated techniques on teaching reading to young children in English and Filipino. The workbooks are meant to provide additional learning aids to the young students in the program. The school tour with Ronald hopes to inspire children to view reading as a fun activity.

During the launch, McDonald's presented fourteen schools within the DepEd – NCR area with plaques of appreciation for being part of the pilot batch of the Bright Minds Read campaign. The participating pilot schools are: Caloocan Elementary School Central in Caloocan, Zapote Elementary School in Las Piñas, Hen. Pio del Pilar Elementary School in Makati Ciy, Tañong Elementary School in Malabon, Pedro P. Cruz Elementary School in Mandaluyong, Isabelo de los Reyes Elementary School in Manila, Marikina Elementary School in Marikina City, Muntinlupa Elementary School in Muntinlupa, Parañaque Central Elementary School in Parañaque, Padre Zamora Elementary School in Pasay City, Pasig Elementary School in Pasig City, P. Bernardo Elementary School in Quezon City, Pateros Elementary School in Pateros, and A. Fernando Elementary School in Valenzuela City.

Dr. Corazon Santiago, Director of DepEd – NCR presented the school principals to Mr. Lau for the awarding of the plaques.

In her speech, Dr. Santiago underscored the importance of getting children to read at an early age, and thanked McDonald's for initiating the ***Bright Minds Read*** program.

Among the highlights of the ***Bright Minds Read*** launch was a theatrical reading session conducted by the Alitaptap Storytellers, which demonstrated how adults can help make reading more interesting for young children – by acting stories out in front of them.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
NCR
Bright Minds Read
A Children's
Education - NCR

*(L-R) McDonald's Joseph Lau, DepEd-NCR's Chief of Elementary Education Gerardo Consolacion, Division Superintendent for Quezon City Victoria Fuentes, and Regional Director for NCR Dr. Corazon Santiago during the launch of **Bright Minds Read** at P. Bernardo Elementary School.*

Si Angel Marunong na Magbasa.

The country has found a new advertising darling in Angel, the star of the ***Bright Minds Read*** commercial.

The commercial is set one lazy afternoon in a typical Filipino household. Angel's quivering attempt at reading her father's letter from abroad draws the attention of everyone who suddenly become amazed at her progress.

"We wanted to portray a family that is naturally supportive of the efforts of the young ones to read,'' says Zonito Torrevillas, PR and Communications Manager of McDonald's.

"Hopefully, we are able to inspire others to rally behind the efforts of other kids of Angel's age to learn to read.

The campaign has been gaining the attention of TV audiences who have been captivated by Angel's charm. And not a few parents have expressed appreciation that McDonald's has taken time out to encourage their own angels to read - and aim to be bright minds!

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION NCR

Bright Minds Read.

A Children's Reading Program from McDonald's and the Department of Education - NCR

Jennifer Love Hewitt looks forward to playing meatier roles

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

THIS week's Q&A:

From Jamie Pascual of Cebu, **"I love Jennifer Love Hewitt. She is beautiful, sexy and talented. I just bought a copy of her latest album with the song, 'Barenaked,' and was surprised to find that she can really sing well. Was she really responsible for the break-up of the marriage of Alec Baldwin and Kim Basinger? Please tell me more about her."**

The 23-year-old actress' first love is really singing. She went to Hollywood to pursue a singing career but ended up acting first.

Talent

The actress may be small in stature (She is only 5'3"), but she more than makes up for that with her talent and sunshiny demeanor.

Love, as she is fondly called by friends and colleagues, hit it big when she joined the cult-and-critics' favorite, "Party of Five," as the affable love interest of Scott Wolf, Sarah Reeves Merrin. She stayed on with the show from 1995 to 1999, and left it only when her character was sent to New York for the "Party" spin-off, "Time of Your Life," which proved to be unsuccessful.

She starred in very popular teen-slasher flicks, "I Know What You Did Last Summer" and its 1998 sequel. She gained cult status in "Can't Hardly Wait." Then, she starred with Sigourney Weaver in the dark comedy, "Heartbreakers," shown here early this year, and with Jackie Chan in the current "The Tuxedo."

Disappointed

She feels disappointed, though, that a movie she considers special, Alec Baldwin's directorial debut, "The Devil and Daniel Webster," which also stars Anthony Hopkins, is currently embroiled in production "hell," despite its having wrapped up principal photography. She feels that her performance (as the Devil at that!) is something she can be proud of.

Another turning point in the actress' young career was when she won the lead in the made-for-TV film bio, "The Audrey Hepburn Story." Not content with playing Hepburn on the small screen, she will also be seen in the movie, "Why Can't I Be Audrey Hepburn?" next year.

Nope, she was *not* responsible for the break-up of the marriage of Alec and Kim Basinger, although she does not deny her closeness to her director. From 1999 to April last year, she dated LFO's Rich Cronin (remember last year's hit single, "Summer Girls"?). She is currently dating Broadway actor Patrick Wilson.

Last year, she was asked to take Shannen Doherty's place in "Charmed," but she turned it down. Now *that* would have been interesting to watch—Alyssa, Holly Marie and Jennifer Love! The role went to Rose McGowan, instead.

HEWITT. Insists she wasn't responsible for the break-up of the marriage of Alec Baldwin and Kim Basinger.

Modern retelling

A role she hated losing to another actress was that of Juliet in Baz Luhrmann's "Romeo + Juliet," with Leonardo DiCaprio. Claire Danes won the role because Luhrmann felt Hewitt "wasn't modern enough."

Born to an Italian mother who works as a speech pathologist and to a German father who is a medical technologist, Hewitt is known to be among the kindest and nicest people in the biz.

In 1999, she sent three dozen pink roses to Gwyneth Paltrow the night before Paltrow won the Best Actress Oscar for "Shakespeare in Love," with a two-page letter praising her as a role model. Paltrow sent a reply a week later, and Hewitt framed it.

First time

When the two actresses met for the first time at the 2000 Golden Globes, Hewitt was beside herself with excitement. She recalls, "She came up to me and gave me a hug for the flowers. I thought I was going to pass out. I was actually going to have a heart attack!"

From Clarissa de Leon of Las Pinas, **"I am a big fan of the great Jackson siblings, Michael and Janet. I just want to know if it's possible to ask for their respective addresses? Any update on Janet?"**

You will see Janet these days as a guest artist on Beenie Man's groovesome music video, "Feel It Boy." She will also be heard (and seen in the accompanying music video) in the track, "Take Me Now," from 'N Syncer Justin Timberlake's debut album as a solo artist, "Justified," due out Nov. 5.

Try these addresses: (For Michael) Neverland Ranch, Los Olivos 93441, USA; (For Janet) 9830 Wilshire blvd., Beerly Hills, Ca 90212, USA. Good luck!

Judy Ann is a playful genie in her latest Viva starrer

By Edmund L. Sicam

JUDY Ann Santos is all bubbly and giggly over lunch at Viva. She is there to promote her latest movie with Robin Padilla, "Jeannie, Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang," where she plays a genie who grants Robin three wishes.

She talks to us excitedly about the costumes she wore on the set of the movie. She is very pleased with them because they were very comfortable to wear. *"At hindi nakalabas ang tiyan ko!"* she adds, giggling. But genie costumes usually show off the genie's belly button, we tease her. *"Ako lang ang hindi!"* she quips back. *"Alam kasi ni* Paul (the costume designer) *kung ano iyung gusto ko, kung ano yung damit na kaya kong dalhin. Mahirap kasi kung di komportable* and *suot kong* costume."

Costumes

No, she is not in costume for the entire movie. She has a few other ourfits which they got from Mix. *"Puede ako magsuot ng normal na damit sa bahay kasi sila lang nakakakita sa akin. Pag lumabas ako, magmumukhang may lumulutang na damit!"* Judy Ann clarifies, *"Para lang mapagbigyan si Robin na iba yung suot ko, kasi sabi niya mukha akong Sex Bomb sa suot ko!"* she says as she breaks into peals of laughter.

We ask her if she did some belly dancing in the movie. *"Hindeeeeee!"* she says in obvious loathing of the idea. Why, we ask, does she have this thing against showing her belly button. "Belly button, *bel-bel. ...Di ko yata kaya iyon! Kailangan ng malaking tulong ng* computer *para ma-*edit out *ang mga bilbil ko!" she says, embarrassed.*

We then decide to turn the tables on this genie for that afternoon. We ask her what wishes she has made that have already come true. "*Naku! Yung nagkaroon kami ng* chance *na makapag-*Hong Kong *kaming pamilya,"* she immediately volunteers.

SANTOS. Wants to win an acting award.

We ask her if she ever wished to be the big star that she is now. Surprisingly, she says no. *"Gusto ko lang, sarili ko makita ko sa* TV. *Yun lang yung talagang* wish *ko.* Never *kong inisip na darating ako sa* point *na ganito!"* says the actress.

Three wishes

And if she were to be granted three wishes right now, what would they be? First — *"Mabayaran ko lahat ng utang ko!"* she says, laughing, *"Para makautang ulit!"* she jokes.

Second : "To win an acting award. Grand slam *sana, ganoon!* Third : "To build homes in a compound for my family." She explains that since her family is small (there's only four of them), she would like to keep them all close by.

"Napaka-pangit yung kami-kami lang, hiwa-hiwalay pa. Gusto ko, paggising mo sa umaga, sisigaw ka lang, 'Oy, penge ng patis!' Nasa tabi mo nanay mo, kapatid mo, mga pamangkin mo, nasa loob ng bahay mo," she elaborates. *"Naiingit ako sa mga pamilyang malalaki kasi nakikita ko pag nagsama-sama sila, ang saya-saya nila. Pag maliit kasi, tapos hiwa-hiwalay pa kayo, parang feeling mo, asan ang pamilya ko?"*

Judy Ann explains that she did not experience growing up with all the family members by her side. "My mom wasn't around, *si Kuya nagtatrabaho, si Ate nasa* college, *si Daddy wala rin, so hindi ko naipon iyung mga oras na magkakasama kami, kasi bata pa ako masyado para maalala yung mga araw na kumpleto yung pamilya namin."* So now, her wish for her nephews and nieces is to grow up in the bosom of a big family's embrace. *"Ayoko silang lumaki na parang wala silang mahawakan, dapat buo sa utak nila na meron silang pundasyon, kung baga."*

Boyfriend

No, she says she will not wish for a boyfriend. *"Hindi hinihingi ang* boyfriend. *Darating siya kung kailan gusto ni* Lord. *Kasi pag pinilit, mapilitan lang yung tao na ligawan ka," declares the young star.*

And what if she does marry and he does not want to live in a compound with all her relatives? *"Wala siyang choice!"* she blurts out. Or what if her guy wants to live abroad? "OK, *sulatan mo ako! Huwag mo akong kalimutan!"* she says, laughing. But she turns serious: *"Hindi, nasasabi ko lang yun ngayon kasi wala ako sa sitwasyon na iyon. Siguro pag nandoon na ako, doon ako mahihirapang magdesisyon. Tsaka (depende) kung gaano ko talaga kamahal yung tao."*

Going back to the movie, Judy Ann says that she had lots of fun acting with Robin Padilla. *"Napaka-*gentleman *niya, parang* feeling *mo, gusto mong ibalik sa kanya yung mga ginagawa niyang maganda sa iyo,"* she says of her leading man. She cites one of the things that endeared Robin to her: *"Merong bago ka pumunta ng* washroom, *may mauuna sa iyo para linisn yung banyo. Prinsesa!* No wonder, *maraming babaeng nahuhulog sa kanya."*

Exceptionally delicious Turkish sweets

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

SOME of the most fascinating desserts I have tasted are the ones I received from a dear friend, Charlie Carmona, as a Christmas gift. I tried to invade the homes of other friends who also got the same gift. These were Turkish sweets that were exceptionally delicious. I truly fancy these Mediterranean desserts. My eyes are always on the lookout for something similar.

Pastries

On one of my strolls at Power Plant, I happened to walk by Dixie Mabanta's Café Mediterranean and noticed that, apart from his delicious Chicken, Beef and occasionally lamb Gyros, he had added some Mediterranean pastries. These are the baklava type of sweets, made with Filo pastry, honey and a variety of Middle Eastern nuts.

"Interesting," I thought. Since I had time to kill and was a bit lost in looking for Ed Quimson's Tapa bar, I thought I would take home some samples of the Med desserts.

Variety of fillings

These delicious finger foods are made with flaked pastry and have a variety of fillings. The Banana-Chocolate filling was good. The Saray has a filling of ground nuts; there was apple and cinnamon, walnut, Pasha, Buana (which is stringy), chocolate. Herein is similar to Marzipan, there is one filled with pistachio. They also have Baklava and one with a Spinach and Feta filling.

Dixie has a Turkish baker and you can tell that his products are different. Check them out. The place is called Guzel and is located right across Café Med on the ground floor of Power Plant. Look for Mike and ask for what he can recommend.

Christmas is fast approaching. If Charlie doesn't get the hint, now I have an alternative.

Happy eating!

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM OCT 19 - OCT 25

CH	2	4	5	7	9	13	23	29	31
	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:00 Arriba, Arriba 8:00 Mary d' Potter 9:00 Klasmeyts 10:30 Sapul Kayo Dyan 11:00 "F" 11:30 Sports Unlimited	6:00 Fox News 11:00 Business and Leisure	6:30 Wing Commander 7:00 Sailormoon Sailor Stars 7:30 Family Feud 8:30 Wow Mali! 9:30 Saturday Night 11:30 Star Trek Voyager	6:00 Dragon Ball Z 6:30 Imbestigador 7:30 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:30 Kakabakaba 9:30 Blockbuster Cinema *Forever* 11:30 Master Showman	6:00 Entertainment Tonite 6:30 Hot Ticket 7:00 Largo 8:00 7 Days 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse *Brit Awards 2002*	7:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 8:00 Star For A Night 9:00 Viva Box Office 11:00 Kagat ng Dilim	6:00 Travel Time 6:30 The Beast Machines 7:00 Game Plan 7:30 7th Heaven 8:30 Gilmore Girls 9:30 Studio 23 Presents 11:30 Real Deal	7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras Ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 E! News Weekend 8:00 E!True Hollywood Story *Anne Nicole Smith* 9:00 E!True Hollywood Story 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 E! News Weekend
	5:30 Sharon 7:00 Wansapanataym 8:30 Home Along Da Riles 9:30 Sunday Family Cinemas 11:30 Off The Record 12:00 The Weekend News	8:00 The Working President 9:00 Fox News 11:00 Unlimited Driving	6:00 Zorro 6:30 Guyferd 7:00 Price Is Right 8:00 Sing-Galing 9:00 The Big Night	5:30 Partners Mel & Jay 7:00 Ki 8:30 Daddy Di Do Du 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office *Look Who's Talking* 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents	6:00 Entertainment This Weekend 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 Match TV 9:00 Sunday's Big Event *Professional* 11:00 Road Trip	8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Sinemaks 11:00 Viva's Hot Hits	6:00 Invasion America 6:30 Digital Tour 7:00 Exposed 8:00 Grosse Pointe 8:30 Spin City 9:00 Will & Grace 10:30 Points of View 11:30 News Central	7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night movies	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 E! Original Special 8:00 Celebrity Profile 9:00 Revealed w/ Jules Asner *Drew Barrymore* 10:00 Horror of Hollywood *Theater of Blood*
	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Game K N B? 7:00 Bituin 7:30 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 FPJ Action Cinema 10:30 Headlines 11:00 The Correspondents	6:00 Fox News 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 Fox News	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 F 7:00 Mahha Go Go Go 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Poltergeist: The Legacy 9:30 Trabaho Lang 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Fashion TV	6:00 Frontpage 6:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 7:00 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw 7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:00 Kung Mawawala Ka 8:30 Ready Txt Go 9:00 GMA's Best 10:30 Saksi 11:00 Probe Team	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Worlds Most Amazing Videos 8:00 Jag 9:00 24 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment Tonight 11:00 Sex & the City	6:00 Carita de Angel 7:00 Crayon Shin Chan 8:00 Kurochan 9:00 The Weakest Link 10:00 Diwa 11:00 IBC News	6:00 The Three Stooges 6:30 Starship Troopers 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Samurai X 8:00 Bully 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 Behind the Scenes 7:30 Mysteries and Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 9:30 FYE 10:00 Best of Late Show 11:00 Wild On *Sin City*
	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Game K N B? 7:00 Bituin 7:30 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 OK Fine! Whatever 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Pipol	6:00 Fox News 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 Fora Medica 11:00 Auto Focus	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Dragon League 7:00 2 Years Vacation w/ Dinosaurs 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 E.R. 9:30 Urban Doktor 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Mad TV	6:00 Frontpage 6:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 7:00 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw 7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:00 Kung Mawawala Ka 8:30 Ready Txt Go 9:00 Kool Ka Lang 10:30 Saksi 11:00 Probe Team	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Ed 8:00 Ally McBeal 9:00 The Practice 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainmnet Tonight	6:00 Challenge of the Masters! 9:00 Sine Shawie 11:00 IBC News	6:00 The Three Stooges 6:30 Starship Troopers 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Samurai X 8:00 Dawson's Creek 9:00 Smallville 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Twilight Zone	5:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 Extreme Close Up 7:30 Nearly Famous 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 9:30 FYE 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *Party Central 2002*
	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Game K N B? 7:00 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 7:30 Bituin 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 Whattamen 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Mission X	6:00 Fox News 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 Fox News	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Pygmalio 7:00 Time Quest 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Friends 9:00 That's 70's Show 9:30 Planet X 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Task Force Siyasat	6:00 Frontpage 6:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 7:00 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw 7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:00 Kung Mawawala Ka 8:30 Ready Txt Go 9:00 Ben Bote Nga 10:30 Saksi 11:00 Jessica Soho Reports	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Higher Ground 8:00 Roswell 9:00 Fugitive 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment Tonight 11:00 Wrestling	6:00 PBA Games 8:30 Challenge of the Masters 11:00 IBC News	6:00 The Three Stooges 6:30 Starship Troopers 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Samurai X 8:00 Dark Angel 9:00 The X-Files 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Twilight Zone	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:30 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 Behind the Scenes 7:30 Nearly Famous 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 9:30 FYE 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *Strip*
	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Game K N B? 7:00 Bituin 7:30 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 Maalaala Mo Kaya 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Isyu 101	6:00 Fox News 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 Fox News	6:00 Balitang-Balita! 6:30 Shulato 7:00 Fancy Lala 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Guinness World Records 9:30 Single 10:00 The Big News 10:30 By Request	6:00 Frontpage 6:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 7:00 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw 7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:00 Kung Mawawala Ka 8:30 Ready Txt Go 9:00 Daboy en Da Girl 10:30 Saksi 11:00 Debate w/ Mare and Pare	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Clueless 7:30 Sister, Sister 8:00 Felicity 9:00 Once and Again 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainmnet Tonight	6:00 Challenge of the Masters 11:00 IBC News	6:00 The Three Stooges 6:30 Starship Troopers 7:00 Amazing Grace 8:30 Barkada Nights 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Twilight Zone	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:30 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 Extreme Close Up 7:30 Nearly Famous 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 9:30 FYE 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *Tinseltown*
	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Game K N B? 7:00 Bituin 7:30 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 Star Cinema Presents 10:30 Headlines 11:00 True Crime	6:00 Paco Park Presents 7:00 The working President 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 Fox News	6:00 Balitang-Balita! 6:30 Lazer Patrol 7:00 Starcom 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Ispup 9:30 On-air 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Friday Box Office	6:00 Frontpage 6:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 7:00 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw 7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:00 Kung Mawawala Ka 8:30 Ready Txt Go 9:00 Bubble Gang 10:30 Saksi 11:00 Emergency	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 That's Life 8:00 Malcolm In The Middle 8:30 Dharma & Greg 9:00 NYPD Blue 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 TV Greats on Friday *Mandy Moore The Real Story*	6:00 PBA Games 8:30 Challenge of the Masters 11:00 IBC News	6:00 The Three Stooges 6:30 Starship Troopers 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Justice League 8:00 Survivor: Thailand 8:30 The Chronicle 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Twilight Zone	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 Behind the Scenes 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 9:30 FYE 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *Sin City 2002*

New TV series focuses on life in the context of death

By Nestor U. Torre

LAST Saturday, we stayed up way past midnight to catch the two-hour premiere of "Six Feet Under" on the HBO channel. The new series is a big hit in the States, and has just won six Emmy awards, more than any drama series currently on the tube.

Coffins

Will it also do well here? It depends on how local viewers will "take" its stories about life—and death. The new show's title refers to corpses in their coffins, buried deep in cemetery plots—does that sound like "entertainment" to viewers here, or will they get turned off by such a relentless focus on undertakers, morgues, wakes, embalming processes, etc.—?!

Well, the show also deals with other topics and themes, so the focus isn't *so* relentless. But all those other developments—love, lust, family relationships, quirks, neuroses, liberated practices—happen to the members of a family of undertakers, so the specter of death is still ever-present.

Good reminder

But, make no mistake, the drama series is really about life—in the context of death. That's a context that may usually elude or irritate people, so the show's decision to dwell on it is a good reminder of a most relevant reality that some of us may prefer to forget.

That's the show's biggest contribution. If many viewers here agree to be reminded, the show should do well. If they don't want to dwell on that fact, they may stay away from the series, and its ratings could dip

Different

The show is a hit in the States because Americans like their entertainment edgy, sassy and "different"—and "Six Feet Under" certainly is that! It also helps that all of its major characters are neurotic, since that makes for quirky storytelling.

Like, would you believe, after the undertaker dies, his wife confesses to her children that she's been having an affair with a hairdresser?!

Other quirky developments in the show's two-hour premiere last Saturday: The eldest son makes love to a perfect stranger. His younger brother has a gay cop for a lover. And their kid sister is a drug and sex junkie.

Tics and shticks

Put all these idiosyncratic characters together, add other family-related tics and shticks, and you get a really different piece of storytelling.

In addition, the series introduces stories involving the undertakers' "clients"—the dead and the bereaved—and they're pretty idiosyncratic, as well. Thus does the show tell us that we can get to know people as they really are by observing how they react to life's major traumas, a loved one's passing being pretty much at the top of that list.

Liberating

On the other hand, the series can also be quite liberating, because it demystifies and "de-scarifies" the generally dreaded "specter" of death. As the show sees it, death isn't scary, it's a fact of life—an important one, at that.

On US TV, viewers like that slant on things plus the show's instances of "black" humor, like its brief "commercials" for top-of-the-line hearses, make-up and prosthetics for the dead, etc.—!

How keen are local viewers on black comedy? In a few weeks' time, as the ratings come in, we'll know. (After last Saturday's premiere screening, "Six Feet Under" will be shown regularly every Tuesday on HBO.)

"SIX FEET UNDER." Idiosyncratic characters, one and all.

'Comedian' is a fascinating documentary

By Anthony Breznican

LOS ANGELES—What are Jay Leno and Jerry Seinfeld doing, sitting in the dingy, graffiti-streaked back room of a Los Angeles club?

Same question

These millionaire comedians ask themselves the same question. It's the same sort of hole they worked so hard to get out of, and now they're going out on the stage again to try to tickle the funnybones of smart-aleck, drunk patrons.

They don't have to do this anymore to make a living—they just *have* to do it.

Watching scenes like that in the fascinating new documentary "Comedian," it seems that the world's greatest comics are born from the same thrill-seeking urge that drives people to skydiving or climbing mountains.

The film is partly about Seinfeld's efforts to come up with a one-hour act of brand-new material and partly about the efforts of a little-known comic named Orny Adams to make it big.

Director Christian Charles, a former advertising executive, and producer Gary Streiner followed Seinfeld for more than a year with two hand-held digital video cameras. Despite the grainy format, they capture small moments of joy and dejection and use an upbeat jazz soundtrack to highlight emotion.

Ambition

Early in the film, which takes place mostly at night at various comedy clubs around the country, Adams seems to have what it takes to succeed: sharp wit, a charming face and lots of ambition. The camera captures him repeatedly watching a videotape of his act and obsessing over the details.

Seinfeld has nothing to prove. His self-titled NBC sitcom made him one of the highest-paid entertainers in history and he is perhaps the world's best-known stand-up comic.

Despite that, Seinfeld has retired the comedy act he honed over the years. In the film, he sets about testing new jokes in front of audiences whose expectations are high because of his success.

In one of his first new stage appearances, a woman heckles "Is this your first gig?" when he stops to check the notes on a piece of paper. Anybody who has ever fumbled through an elementary school presentation will recognize the frightened expression on his face.

What we learn from "Comedian" is that no one is "just funny," that a good performance is born from many, many bad ones and a good comic is usually someone fueled more by passion than money.

Aspiring stand-up

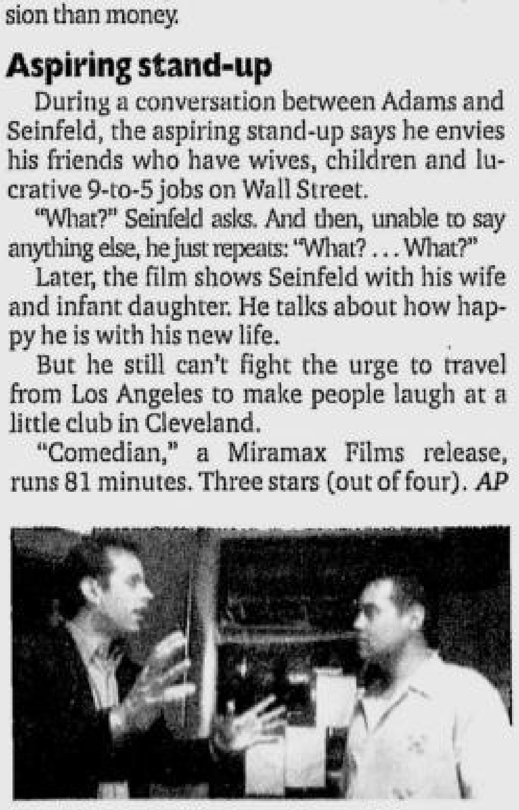
During a conversation between Adams and Seinfeld, the aspiring stand-up says he envies his friends who have wives, children and lucrative 9-to-5 jobs on Wall Street.

"What?" Seinfeld asks. And then, unable to say anything else, he just repeats: "What? . . . What?"

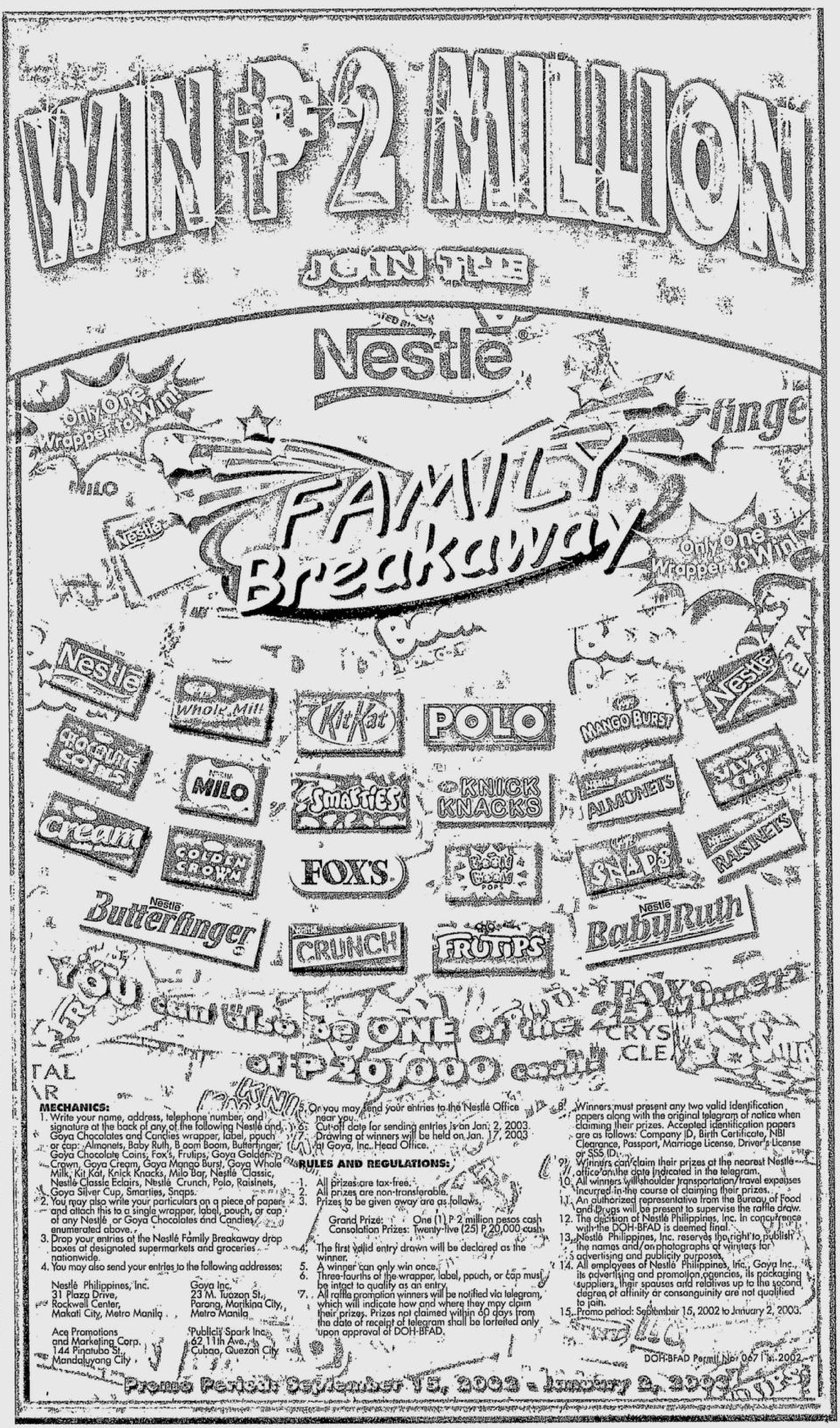
Later, the film shows Seinfeld with his wife and infant daughter. He talks about how happy he is with his new life.

But he still can't fight the urge to travel from Los Angeles to make people laugh at a little club in Cleveland.

"Comedian," a Miramax Films release, runs 81 minutes. Three stars (out of four). *AP*



JERRY Seinfeld, left, and Orny Adams in Christian Charles' documentary, "Comedian."



MECHANICS:

1. Write your name, address, telephone number, and signature at the back of any of the following Nestlé and Goya Chocolates and Candies wrapper, label, pouch or cap: Almonets, Baby Ruth, Boom Boom, Butterfinger, Goya Chocolate Coins, Fox's, Frutips, Goya Golden Crown, Goya Cream, Goya Mango Burst, Goya Whole Milk, Kit Kat, Knick Knacks, Milo Bar, Nestlé Classic, Nestlé Classic Eclairs, Nestlé Crunch, Polo, Raisinets, Goya Silver Cup, Smarties, Snaps.
2. You may also write your particulars on a piece of paper and attach this to a single wrapper, label, pouch, or cap of any Nestlé or Goya Chocolates and Candies enumerated above.
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4. You may also send your entries to the following addresses:

Nestlé Philippines, Inc.
31 Plaza Drive,
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and Marketing Corp.
144 Pinatubo St.,
Mandaluyong City

Publicis Spark Inc.
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Cubao, Quezon City

5. Or you may send your entries to the Nestlé Office near you.
6. Cut-off date for sending entries is on Jan. 2, 2003.
7. Drawing of winners will be held on Jan. 17, 2003 at Goya, Inc. Head Office.

RULES AND REGULATIONS:

1. All prizes are tax-free.
2. All prizes are non-transferable.
3. Prizes to be given away are as follows.

Grand Prize: One (1) P 2 million pesos cash
Consolation Prizes: Twenty-five (25) P 20,000 cash

4. The first valid entry drawn will be declared as the winner.
5. A winner can only win once.
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7. All raffle promotion winners will be notified via telegram, which will indicate how and where they may claim their prizes. Prizes not claimed within 60 days from the date of receipt of telegram shall be forfeited only upon approval of DOH-BFAD.
8. Winners must present any two valid identification papers along with the original telegram of notice when claiming their prizes. Accepted identification papers are as follows: Company ID, Birth Certificate, NBI Clearance, Passport, Marriage License, Driver's License or SSS ID.
9. Winners can claim their prizes at the nearest Nestlé office on the date indicated in the telegram.
10. All winners will shoulder transportation/travel expenses incurred in the course of claiming their prizes.
11. An authorized representative from the Bureau of Food and Drugs will be present to supervise the raffle draw.
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DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0671 s. 2002

Spanish month features exhibits, performances and a film festival

By Jocelyn Valle

OCTOBER is the Spanish month in Manila, thus the Instituto Cervantes has lined up a series of activities that celebrate its rich culture—a festival of Spanish cuisine, art expositions, guitarist Jorge Orozco in a concert and free workshop, Habanera singer Gonzalo Rei, pianists Maria Jose de Bustos and Maria Jose Barandiaran, the contemporary dance group Losdedae, etc.

We made it a point to catch Gonzalo Rei in concert, and we were rewarded with an extraordinary musical experience, Habanera being touted as one of the most important rhythms in Hispanic music.

'Tesis'

Cineastes, meanwhile, should not miss the Spanish Film Festival that will run from Oct. 20 to 26 at ArtFilm in Greenbelt 1 (call 750-4180). We were at the preview of one of the pictures to be shown, Alejandro Amenabar's "Tesis."

Amenabar's first feature film exposes the business of snuff video materials through a suspenseful and involving narrative, minus the graphic shots of gore. The victim's cry of anguish says it all.

Here's a short description of the other films in the festival:

'Solas'

Circumstances force a mother and daughter to live together in an untidy flat in a poor neighborhood in Sevilla. In each other's company, both emotionally and financially troubled women have to face their demons and make life-altering decisions:

Does the mother stay with her drunkard husband who continually beats her up or does she sever her ties with him and start a new life? Does María keep her baby by a man who never wanted it in the first place?

"BWANA." Social commentary about racism.

'Bwana'

This excellent social commentary about racism in Spain opened the 1996 Miami Hispanic Film Festival to critical acclaim. It tells the story of Antonio, a taxi driver, who takes his family on an afternoon beachcombing excursion, only to stumble upon two illegal African immigrants in search of a better life in Spain.

A series of bizarre events entangle the characters' lives, completely changing their perceptions of each other.

'El Abuelo'

Don Rodrigo de Arista-Ptestad, Count of Albrit, returns to Spain after staying in the United States of America to uncover his son's great secret. His son died, leaving him a note stating that one of his two granddaughters is a bastard.

Upon his return, he discovers the town's resentment towards him and his family and learns the importance of a family's ability to stand together in times of difficulties.

'Goya en Burdeos'

Exiled for 82 years with his two lovers, Goya spent his twilight years telling his daughter about the events that marked his life—a life marked by turbulent passions, fame, fortune and political conspiracies.

'Retrato de Mujer con Hombre Al Fondo'

There is a little bit of 35-year-old Cristina in all of us. A string of failed relationships has made the successful lawyer come to the conclusion that love is nothing but a permanent source of pain. She decides to forego the emotional roller coaster that comes when one opens oneself up to love, and devotes herself completely to something she has control over—her professional life.

However, her emotional bravado starts to crumble when she unexpectedly falls in love.

'Al Ardilla Roja'

Jota, a depressed former pop star, witnessed an accident while contemplating suicide. He rushed the young woman to a hospital only to discover that she had lost her memory because of the accident.

By now, Jota was more than a little enamored by the victim, whom he quickly "christened" as "Liza," his (supposed) live-in lover for four years. He then proceeded to create a new identity for her, weaving in half-truths while trying to unravel "Liza's" real identity.

Simply recommended

INDIGO GIRLS — RETROSPECTIVE

Retrospective / Indigo Girls
Power Of Two
Keyword: powerof2

Paradise / Kenny G
One More Time
Keyword: 1moretime

Nellyville

Nellyville / Nelly
#1
Keyword: #1

ROLLING STONES FORTY LICKS

Forty Licks / Rolling Stones
Paint It Black
Keyword: paintitblack

You had me at hello...

You Had Me At Hello / Various Artists
Sway by Bic Runga
Keyword: sway
Tattoed On My Mind by D'Sound
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keyword: *sway*
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Josh Groban
keyword: *2whereur*
3 **Room For Squares**
John Mayer
keyword: *urbody*
4 **Let Go**
Avril Lavigne
5 **Chillout Project**
Various Artists
6 **Chicago Story: Complete Greatest Hits**
Chicago
keyword: *fuleavemenow*
7 **Nellyville**
Nelly
keyword: *#1*
8 **Come Away With Me**
Norah Jones
9 **Barenaked**
Jennifer Love Hewitt
10 **Simply The Best 60's**
Various Artists
11 **Live Series**
Various Artists
12 **Elvis 30 #1 Hits**
Elvis Presley
13 **Very Best Of MTV Unplugged**
Various Artists
14 **A Walk To Remember -OST**
15 **I Wanna Get Close**
Freestyle
16 **Romance**
Frank Sinatra
17 **Forty Licks**
Rolling Stones
keyword: *paintitblack*
18 **Lilo & Stitch -OST**
19 **Sharon 25 Years 25 Hits**
Sharon Cuneta
20 **Paradise**
Kenny G
keyword: *1moretime*
21 **A Rush Of Blood To The Head**
Coldplay
22 **Voyage 2**
Various Artists
23 **Modern Rock 2**
Various Artists
keyword: *wastingmytym*
24 **Chasing Time**
Martin Nievera
25 **Retrospective**
Indigo Girls
keyword: *powerof2*

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Pinocchio movie sets new record in Italy

ROME—Roberto Benigni's "Pinocchio" broke the all-time Italian box office record for first weekend returns in its premiere on 940 screens throughout Italy.

Three-day gross

According to data provided by Cinetel Srl, an independent movie survey company, in three days the movie raked in over euros 7.02 million ($6.93 million).

Roberto Chicchiero, Cinetel's director, said these results put "Pinocchio" way ahead of former record holder "The Lord Of the Rings," which collected just under euros 5.86 million ($5.78 million) in its first weekend at the box office last year.

Despite opening to lukewarm reviews by some critics who called the movie boring and unimaginative, more than 1.15 million people flocked to see the classic Italian tale brought to life by the feisty and irreverent comedian.

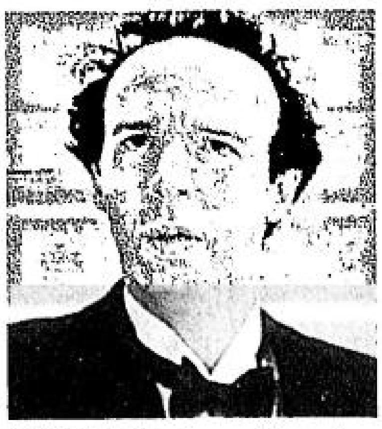
Nearly one of every three Italian cinemas showed the film over the weekend.

Three Oscars

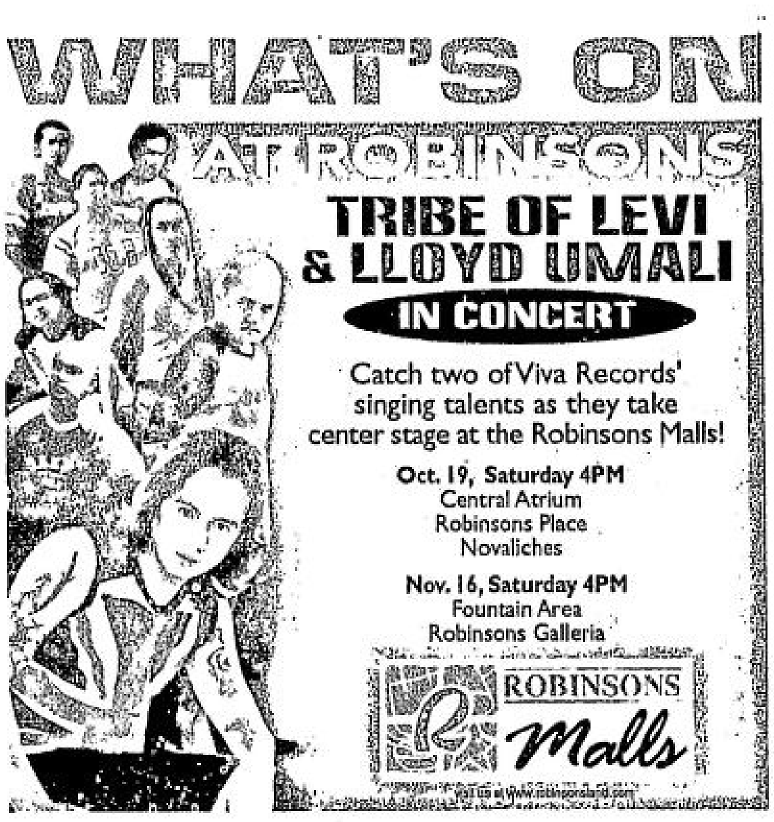
Benigni, who won three Oscars with his Holocaust tragicomedy "Life Is Beautiful" in 1999, doubles once again as director and star in this movie adaptation of the morality fable written by Carlo Collodi in 1880.

Benigni plays the wooden puppet who dreams of becoming a real boy, while the role of the blue-haired fairy is reserved for his wife, Nicoletta Braschi.

The movie is set to open in the United States on Christmas. *AP*



BENIGNI. Director and star of latest film adaptation of Carlo Collodi's morality fable.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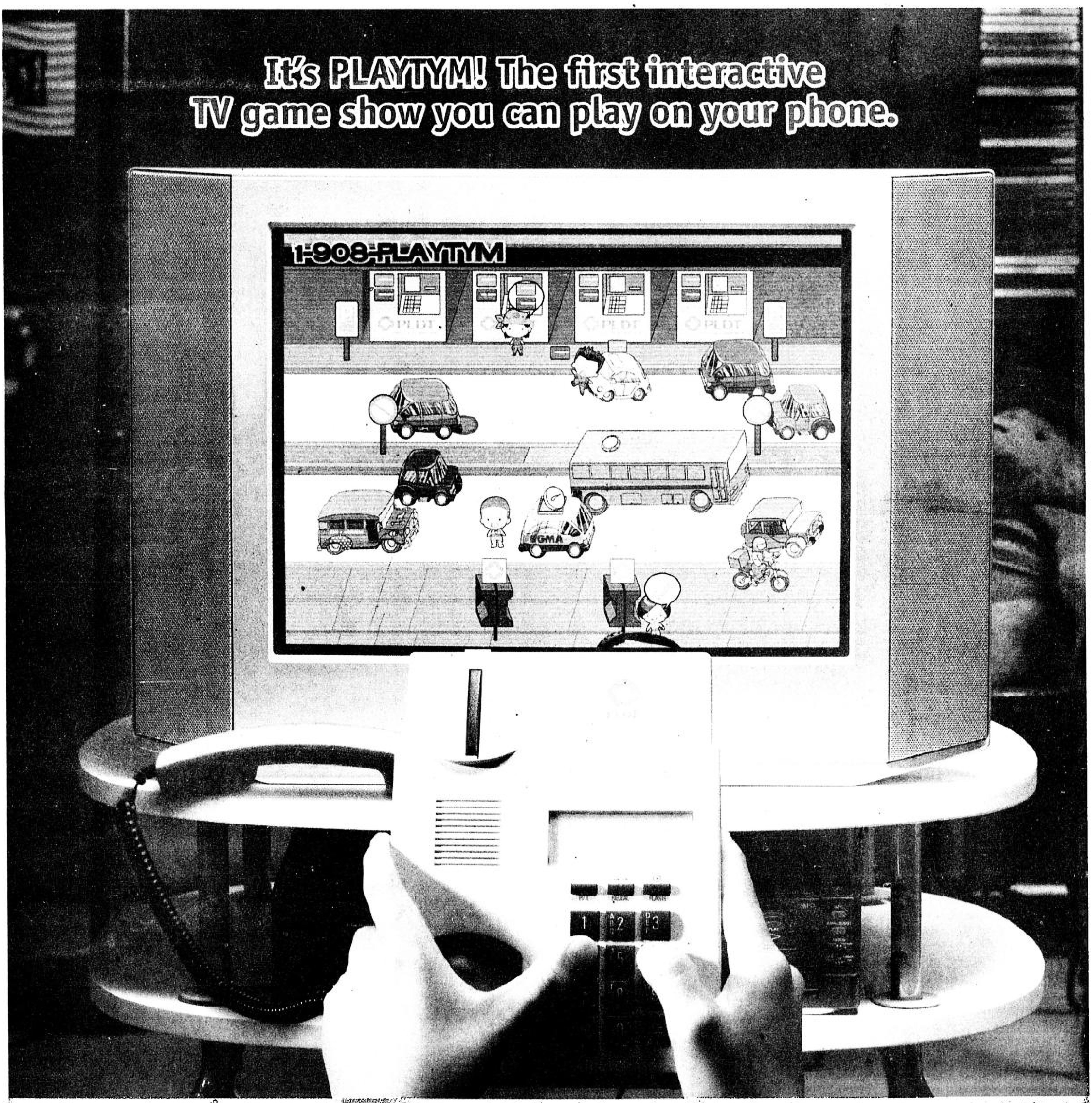
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PLDT

Showcase for Asian films at Fukuoka festival

"A TREE WITHOUT ROOTS." Focuses on how religion pervades life in a village in Bangladesh.

By Nestor U. Torre

THE PHILIPPINES was well-represented at last month's 2002 Fukuoka "Focus on Asia" international film festival by Marilou Diaz-Abaya's "Bagong Buwan." Marilou has been a great favorite of the Fukuoka festival, which has helped nurture her career as an international filmmaker through the years.

Rigorous taskmaster

This is because the festival's revered Director General, Mr. Tadao Sato, has made her one of his "children in cinema," some 20 gifted directors from all over the world. He believes in them so much that he opens doors for them internationally. But he can also be a rigorous taskmaster, continually motivating them to keep turning out increasingly better films.

At this year's Fukuoka filmfest, other Asian directors were also given the showcase they need to "go international." The festival has an edge because Mr. Sato and his wife are indefatigable discoverers and promoters of little-known cinematic cultures.

Best of the lot

They think nothing of flying to a remote corner of the world to view as many as six films in one day, pick the best of the lot, showcase them at Fukuoka, and let the rest of the world discover them in turn. The Satos have been instrumental in boosting filmmaking countries all over the world, particularly in Asia.

This year, the Fukuoka filmfest gave a boost to: "Orator" by Yusup Razykov, a film from Uzbekistan. In 1998, it won the grand prix at the Kinoshok filmfest held in Russia that attracts filmmakers from all over the former Soviet Union.

Although completed after the fall of the Soviet Union, the film was banned for a time. However, exhibition was finally permitted after it was exhibited at the Berlin and Rotterdam international festivals.

Religion

"A Tree Without Roots" by Tanvir Mokammel, a filmmaker from Bangladesh. This film focuses on how religion pervades life in a village and affects everybody there. It shows how Islam should be, and how deceitful religion can be. It hasn't been easy making serious films in Bangladesh, so this movie is justly celebrated.

"The Chimp" by Aktan Abdykalykou of Kyrgyztan. This film is about boys who are about to serve in the military, and about the adults who are stuck in a small town and have nowhere to go.

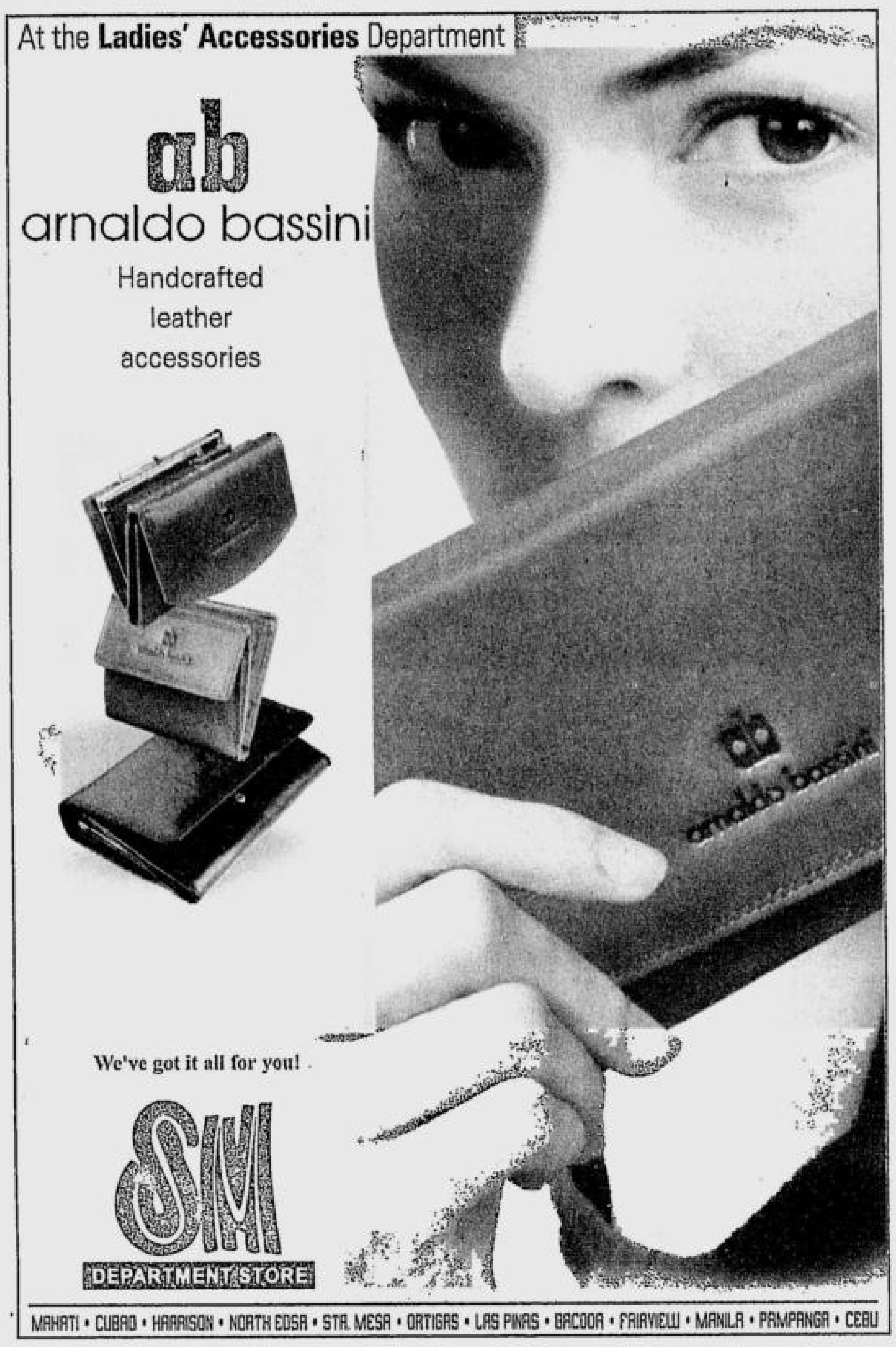
"Octave" by Shaji N. Karun of India. An old couple's son is a pilot in the Indian air force who doesn't fail to call them once a week. Just before the India-Pakistan war of 1971, however, he stops calling.

Psychic connection

The mother becomes very anxious. Then, one day, the pilot' s parents mistakenly and mysteriously get a phone call form a young boy. Is there a psychic connection between him and their son?

"A Beautiful Flower" by Nabin Subba of Nepal. This is the first time that the Limbu ethnic group is captured on film. Aside from the group's traditions, it depicts a family tragedy as it unfolds, and how those traditions have robbed women of their freedom, and have even led to their exploitation.

"The Moonhunter" by Bhandit Rittakol of Thailand. About Thai student leaders in 1973 who demonstrated against the government, were hunted down, fled to the hills, eventually surrender, and start a new life.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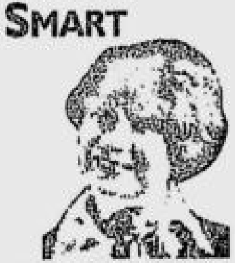
BENEFICIARIES of the "Feed-A-Kid" project in Barangay San Jose, Antipolo with the Solid Cement ladies.

KIDS receive school supplies as part of the Isang Lapis, Isang Papel project.

STREET SMART


Mandy Navasero

Charitable activity and learning session

SOLID Cement Corporate Communications director Juris Soliman recently got the Solid Cement ladies and some plant workers together and brought them to Barangay San Jose in Antipolo, where the cement plant is located, for its Feed-A-Kid project.

Pointers

The 200 children who headed the call were fed *lugaw* or rice porridge, milk cupcakes and juice. They were also given easy pointers on how to bake cakes, turning the charitable activity into a learning session for the children. Solid Cement Corp., a member of the Cemex Philippines Group of Companies, has been at the forefront of many projects such as this.

One of the most laudable is the construction of a Cemex computer building also in Antipolo, as well as donations of PCs for the mobile library van project of Antipolo City, and their Isang Lapis, Isang Papel project.

The ladies who are members of the Solid Ladies Club have impressed the mayor's wife, who believes in their sincerity to help the citizens of Barangay San Jose.

Operations

Cemex is a leading producer and marketer of cement and ready-mix products, with operations concentrated in the world's most dynamic cement markets across five continents.

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Brand name products of Cemex Philippines Group of Companies are APO Cement, Rizal Cement, Island Cement, Cemex Concrete, Cemex White Cement and Island Quarry and Aggregates.

Brassy affair for TWM at the Shang today

NO Curfew and Shangri-La Plaza Mall are out to give The World of Music (TWM) regular patrons a special treat at 5 p.m. today at the Shangri-La Mall, its original home.

Now on its 5th season, TWM 5 is being presented by No Curfew (located at the 5th level of the mall's teenzone) in cooperation with Shangri-La Plaza Corp. No Curfew is a youth-oriented watch and accessories shop catering to the young and fashionable.

Special event

Former MTV Asia VJ Vanessa joins TWM regulars Angelique Lazo and Prof. Johnny Ramos in hosting in this special event.

The concert features the UP Brass 5 and the UP Afro-Latin Ensemble led by top percussionist Bo Razon. They will regale the audience with the best of brass and Afro-Latin rhythms at the Shang. From baroque to mambo, there will be something for every age.

Varied repertoire

The varied repertoire includes classical music, popular movie soundtracks, Broadway hits, Sousa marches, traditional Cuban folkloric rhythms blended with Filipino folk songs, and popular Beatles hit in Latin beat.

LAZO. TWM host.

Free to the public, TWM 5 will be introducing a more interactive format, allowing repartee between the performers and the members of the audience. This aims to facilitate better understanding of the roots and elements of the music being performed. Call 726-1968.

Ciara, Karylle, Isabella . . .

From page D7

ASAP advance screening

ASAP and the Pambansang Party ng Pilipinas will sponsor an advance screening of another box office hit, "Sweet Home Alabama" starring Reese Witherspoon, Josh Lucas and Patrick Dempsey today at 7:30 p.m. at SM Megamall Cinema 1.

In the romantic comedy, Reese stars as a New York fashion designer who's engaged to the city's most eligible bachelor (Patrick Dempsey), but the man (Josh Lucas) she married in high school refuses to grant her a divorce.

300 lucky texters will get a chance to watch the movie by answering the question, "*Anong pambansang party ang makikikilig sa inyo sa* celebrity advance screening *ng* "Sweet Home Alabama"? Type ASAP <space>ABO<space>answer<space> and your name and then send to 2366.

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CHAN (center) with (clockwise from top) Gino Padilla, Jeanne Young, Liza Chan-Parpan and Karylle.

Jose Mari Chan in 'musical prayerbook'

By Remy M. Umerez

ON Nov. 9, 1990, His Eminence Jaime Cardinal Sin launched a prayerbook for busy people at the Edsa Shrine authored by Fr. Rafael N. Borromeo, S.J., Fr. Andres R. Arboleda, SSP and Maribi Mapa-Garcia.

Different occasions

The aim was merely to encourage more people to pray everyday by presenting prayers for different occasions. It sold around 400,000 copies nationwide and overseas, so St. Paul is now launching the book with new hardbound packaging to be sold with a music and prayers album.

One of the name singers featured in the album is Jose Mari Chan. He sings "It Is the Lord," "The Lord's Prayer," "Be Gentle" and "May the Good Lord Bless and Keep You."

Inspirational package

The inspirational package is enhanced by 13 spiritual songs performed by various artists of Universal Records. Aside from Chan, the other performers, who waived their royalties, are Gino Padilla, Jeanne Young, Anna Tirol, Danny Cruz, Liza Chan-Parpan and Karylle.

The seven morning prayers are read by Maribi Garcia, author and album producer. The seven evening prayers are read by Jose Mari Chan.

Joe Mari's daughter, Liza Chan-Parpan, sings a duet with him, "I Offer My Life."

Gino Padilla's rendition of Rodgers and Hammerstein's "You'll Never Walk Alone" (from the musical "Carousel") gives the compilation a spiritual high.

Spiritual missionary

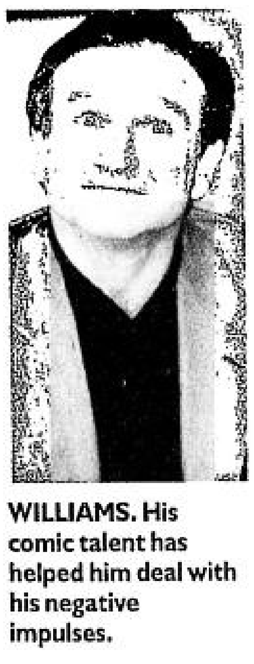
"Let Thy Will Be Done (Fiat)" is interpreted by Karylle, while spiritual missionary Jeanne young does her version of Eric Clapton's."The Presence of the Lord," "Something Good, " and another a duet with Joe Mari, "Be Still My Soul."

Anna Tirol's "In Your Presence" and Danny Cruz's "Nearer Than Before" complete the line-up.

"Presence" is available in a special gift package which includes the new, hardbound, gold-edged edition of "Presence Prayers for Busy People."

Williams admits to 'dark side'

MADRID—Oscar-winning comic actor Robin Williams, starring in a new film more sinister than his fans have come to expect of him, said on Wednesday he had a "dark side" and used comedy to fight it.



WILLIAMS. His comic talent has helped him deal with his negative impulses.

Murderer

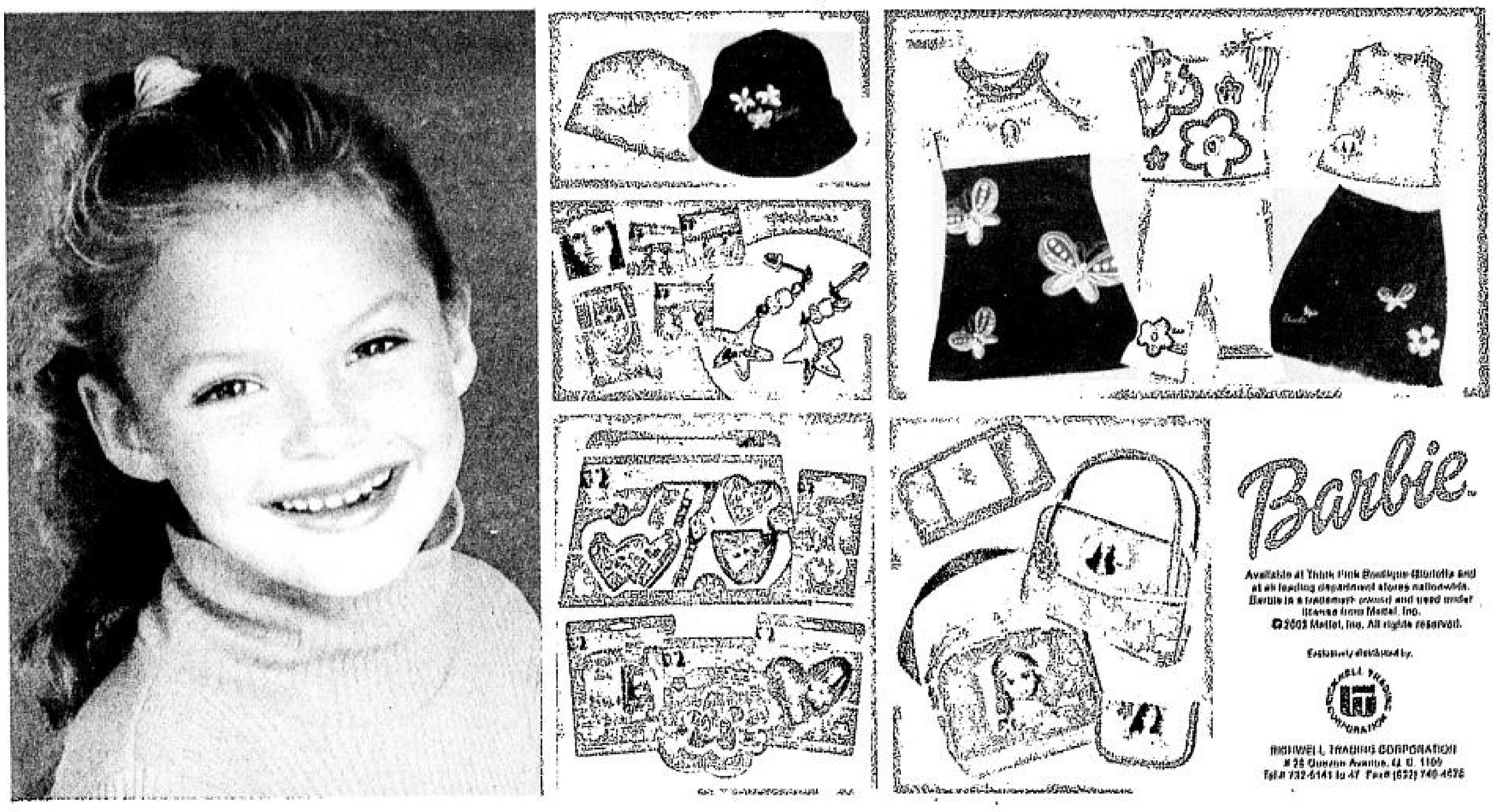
Williams, in Madrid to promote the psychological thriller "Insomnia" in which he plays a murderer being chased by detective Al Pacino, told reporters: "I do have a dark side," but added that his comic talent helped him deal with it.

Most famous for comic roles in "Good Morning, Vietnam," "Mrs. Doubtfire," and his Academy Award-winning part in "Good Will Hunting," Williams kept reporters giggling with impressions ranging from US President George W. Bush to former Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Penchant

Apart from confessing his penchant for Internet games and his addiction to coffee, the American actor and stand-up comedian was full of praise for his co-star, Pacino—star of "The Godfather" films.

"Acting with Al Pacino was like playing jazz with Charlie Parker," Williams said, referring to one of the most famous saxophonists of the 1940s. *Reuters*



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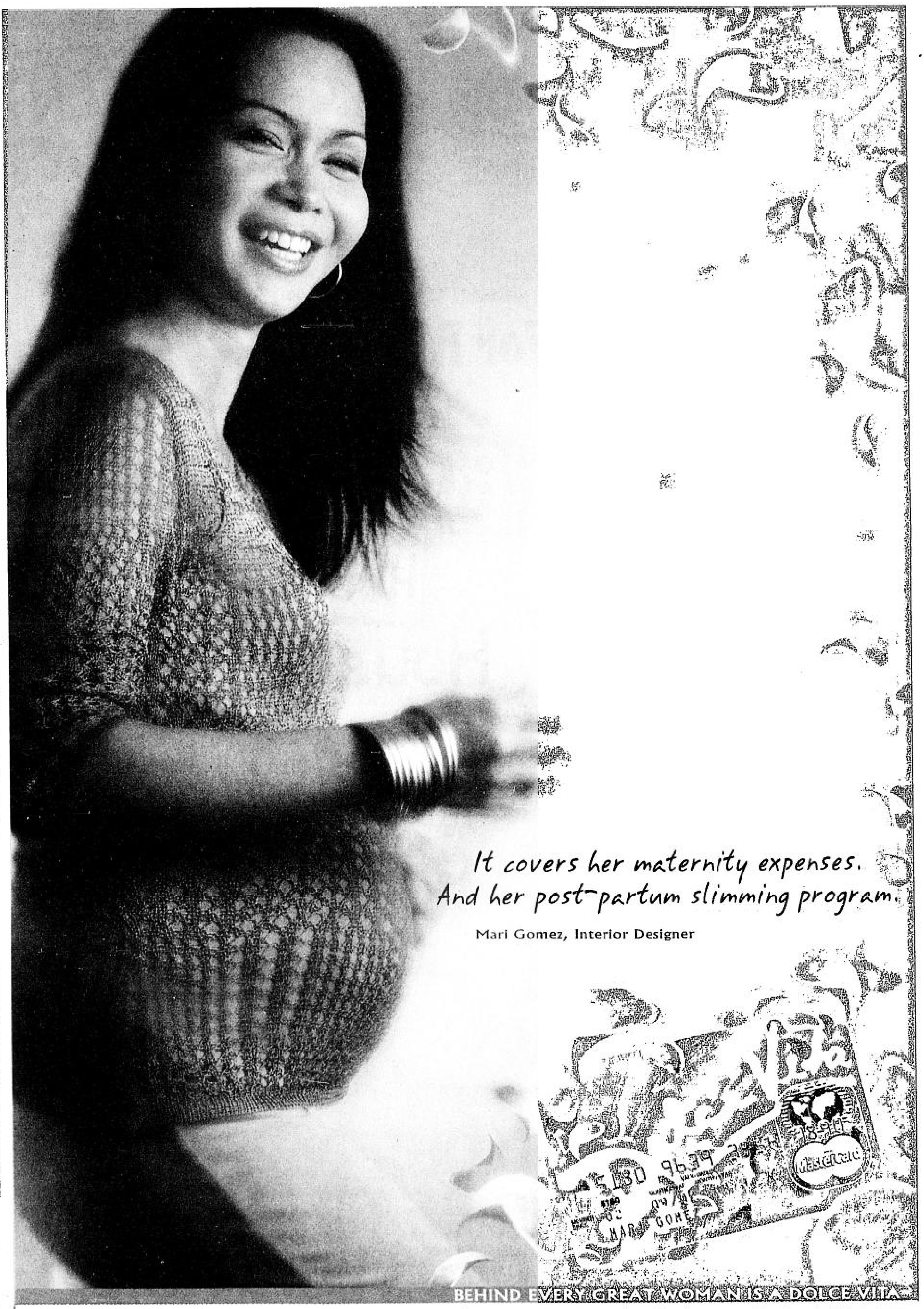

It covers her maternity expenses.
And her post-partum slimming program.

Mari Gomez, Interior Designer

BEHIND EVERY GREAT WOMAN IS A DOLCE VITA

The work of Mari Gomez is all about using limited resources to create a décor masterpiece. As a mother, she also manages her household budget so her family can live well without spending too much. But with her present OB/Gyne fees and medicine, her expenses shoot up.

Good thing, her Dolce Vita takes the load off her back. It's the newest offering from AIG Credit Cards that helps women like Mari take charge of their expenses and their lives. The Maternity Benefits cover hospital and delivery charges up to P5,000. Other female health services include free lab tests like ultrasound, pap smear, urinalysis or a blood sugar count. After giving birth, her baby is entitled to two free visits to the pediatrician. Special fitness packages allow her to exercise in top gyms at discounted packages. To refresh her skin, she can see a dermatologist free of charge on the first visit.

Without a doubt, Dolce Vita complements Mari's life perfectly. Let it help you design yours with the same elegance and flair.

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Televiewers urge singers and newscasters to be more original

VELASQUEZ. Why do so many young female belters copy her singing style?

By Ronald G. Mangubat

JOHN Shedd's famous statement, "When there is an original sound in the world, it makes a hundred echoes" might as well sum up our recent interviews with televiewers who are getting annoyed by singers and newscasters who, they complain, lack originality.

We started off by asking which TV shows they watch, who are their favorite TV stars and what they like and don't like about what they see on the boob tube.

Informal survey

Three findings can be drawn from our informal survey: cable TV subscriptions are on the rise (36 out of our 50 respondents are cable subscribers); televiewers are both amused by and annoyed at the network wars; and 95 percent of the respondents were very vocal about the lack of originality among some singers and newscasters on TV.

This caught us by surprise because, even without our broaching the subject to our respondents, they strongly voiced their concern about this "*gaya-gaya*" syndrome on local television.

"*Naku, isulat mo 'yan, isulat mo,*" says Salvacion Villa, 46, a cigarette vendor in Pasig. "*Hindi na kami natutuwa sa mga bagong* singers *ngayon. Lahat kung kumanta parang si* Regine Velasquez! *Pag manood ka ng kahit na anong* singing contest *sa* TV. *ngayon, mapapansin mo, lahat ng* contestants, *ginagaya si* Regine!"

Observation

This observation was echoed by more than 25 respondents, who said that the younger crop of singers today are sounding like clones of Asia's songbird. "I'm not saying *na hindi sila magaling,*" says Jerry Lin, 22, an engineering student, "but their singing styles, *masyadong kahawig ng kay* Regine. Sometimes, you cannot differentiate one singer from another."

Four singers were identified by the respondents as sounding like Regine—Roselle Nava, Carol Banawa, Kyla and Bituin Escalante.

"They're all good," comments Elvie Serrano, 34, a music teacher, "but I wish they would come into their own.

"Sharon has her style, Jaya has her own, Kuh also. When you hear them singing, *alam mo na agad na sila 'yon. Pero itong apat na ito, malimit di ko ma*-identify. I keep asking my husband, *sino ba yan?*"

Greg A., 27, a Canadian citizen who has been living in the Philippines for the past three years, is a great fan of Velasquez. He said that, when he caught a singing contest on TV, he was surprised to hear even kiddie contestants belting out a Velasquez tune exactly like his favorite singer.

Amused

"I was amused. I know Regine is popular and all, but it suddenly brought to my mind American teenagers who also sing and dress like Britney Spears!"

"*Iba talaga kapag may* unique identity *ang* singer," says Nieves Maderazo, 26, a computer programmer. "I think that's the reason why Aiza Seguerra clicked. She became her own person and performed without any pretensions.

"*Nagustuhan siya ng mga tao dahil bukod sa maganda naman talaga ang* boses *niya*, she was very simple and honest. And Aiza was able to prove *na hindi mo kailangang mag*-belt *para maging magaling.*"

The same observation was also voiced out about news programs wherein, respondents said, some newscasters sound and even look alike. "*Sa* Channel 2, *pansinin nyo, si* Korina Sanchez *at* Karen Davila, *parang pareho na,*" comments Jocelyn Ireneo, 31, a housewife.

"I liked Karen when she was still with Channel 7. *Pero nung lumipat sya sa Dos, parang binabaan nya ang boses nya* and she sounded like Korina. *Tapos, unti-unti, nagiging kamukha na rin nya si* Korina!"

Carlo Ireneo, 34, Jocelyn's husband, adds his observations: "*Hindi lang si* Karen, *pansinin nyo yung mga* male newscasters like Anjo Bendijo, Erwin Tulfo and Julius Babao, *para na rin silang si* Sen. Noli de Castro *kung magsalita.*"

Station image

"I don't know if it's a station image thing or that's what they want to project, *pero yung pagde*-deliver *ng* news *ng mga* newscasters *ng* Channel 2, *pare-pareho talaga,*" agrees Larry Opulencia, 25, a graduate student, "*yung parang* bombastic *na pasigaw.* I think they're trying to project force, but to me it comes out on too strong on screen. *Minsan, ang tingin ko, para silang mga* action stars instead of newscasters."

Still on the subject of originality, another issue which the respondents cited is the "mutual imitation" of show formats between the two warring network giants—ABS-CBN-2 and GMA-7:

"Ang *hindi ko maintindihan, kung bakit lahat ng* shows *na meron ang Siete kailangang tapatan at gayahin ng Dos,*" says Daisy Manda, 29, a *sari-sari* store owner. "*Lahat ng* games *na meron ang* 'Eat Bulaga,' *meron din ang* 'MTB,' *pati yung* Sex Bomb dancers, *ginaya nila. Wala ba silang maisip na* original?"

"Okay *lang sana kung isang* show *lang, pero ang daming* shows *nun,*" sniffs Agnes Perez, 36, businesswoman. "*Yung* 'Wish Ko Lang' *ng Siete meron din* 'Willingly Yours' *ang Dos. Yung* 'SOP,' *tinapatan ng* 'ASAP.' *Tapos, yung mga telenovelas, tapat-tapat talaga! Parang matira ang matibay. Sana, kung baga sa ulam, may iba namang putahe.*"

Fresh concepts

Its about time that singers and newscasters re-think their individual styles, and for television executives to inject more novel and fresh concepts into some shows which viewers are beginning to get tired of.

While some educators say that originality is a myth, creative and responsible people should still think up relatively more original ideas rather than imitating others. As Herman Melville said, "It is better to fail in originality than to succeed in imitation."

DE CASTRO. Why do young male newscasters ape the way he reports the news?

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Focus on David Merrick, Broadway's 'abominable showman'

By Noelani Torre

"I DON'T do interviews," said producer David Merrick to interviewer Dennis Brown. "But come on in." This encounter took place in the late '70s and is documented in Brown's "Shoptalk" (Newmarket Press), a collection of '70s interviews with film and theater folk.

Reluctance

Brown was able to secure an interview with Merrick despite the mega-producer's reluctance, though it wasn't easy. "A 'New York Times Reporter,'" he recounts, "sarcastically wrote that an interview with the reclusive producer 'was no more difficult to arrange than tea with the Queen at Buckingham Palace.'"

Most people might be unfamiliar with this so-called "abominable showman," who passed away just two years ago in April of 2000 at the age of 88, but the list of the shows he produced ought to ring bells even in the most non-theatrical ears.

Merrick, also variously hailed as "the dominant Broadway producer of his era," "one of the most influential producers in Broadway history," and "last of the showman-producers," brought more than 80 shows to Broadway in the course of his career.

Hits

The recipient of eight Tony Awards, he produced such hits as "Gypsy," "Hello, Dolly!," "Becket," "Irma La Douce," "Carnival," "Promises, Promises," and "42nd Street." He also imported such classy British productions as Tom Stoppard's "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead" and Peter Brook's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and "Oliver!"

Among his contemporaries, he was known not only for his hits and his "spectacular flops" but also for his toughness and the wild stunts he would perform just to create publicity for a show.

One of the most famous involved "When Subways Are for Sleeping," which he rescued from flop-dom by running a full-page ad in The New York Herald-Tribune featuring rave reviews written by *namesakes* of well-known critics.

During the '70s, however, when his career was coming to an end, the gimmicks also petered out. "When I was driving hard to succeed, I used every device to turn shows into hits," he told Brown. "Perhaps they were rather undignified, some of them. Maybe I'm now looking for a more dignified image."

This interview with Merrick gives us intriguing insights on the role of the producer, that frequently disparaged but essential "moneyman" in film and theater productions. "The producer walks a balance between business and art," he said.

Total contradiction

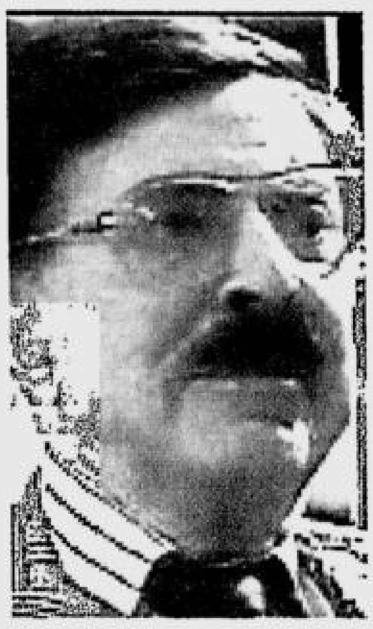
"He's a total contradiction: a mathematician who can't add, and a poet and a rascal at the same time. So it runs through those two extremes." Producing is also a solitary act, hence the heading "Solitary Man" on his interview.

"It's always solitary," he stated. "I doubt if the people connected with a show are very fond of the producer... The producer is the enemy, someone on the other side. Authority."

But no one can accuse David Merrick of not sticking by all of his shows--winners *and* losers. "The greatness of the most successful producers is that their productions reflect a time," writes Brown. "Yet, when time moves on, as it inexorably must, those producers are left behind and cast aside."

Merrick was the musical's champion during the '50s and '60s, and though he was "cast aside" in later years, he remained the ultimate producer to the end.

"He saw it through the end, and he promoted it to the hilt," Brown writes. "He was a *producer.*"



MERRICK. Brought more than 80 shows to the Great White Way.

Iraz Melchor is Maryo J's latest find

By Edmund L. Sicam

IRAZ Melchor is Direk Maryo de los Reyes' latest find—Direk Maryo discovered him when Iraz was first runner-up in the Handsome Guy Philippines contest in 1999. His name was Melchor Alipio, and he needed training. So, he took a workshop with Peta.

Audition

After that, he auditioned for Tanghalang Pilipino. *"Nakuha naman ako."* He appeared in numerous plays, the last of which was "Luna," where he played Gregorio del Pilar. Another talent of Iraz is singing—most of the plays he did for Tanghalang Pilipino were musicals.

Now, the 22-year-old from La Paz, Tarlac is doing his first movie, "Bedtime Stories." He's in the second episode, where he gets obsessed with a corpse. He plays a student enamored of his teacher, Maricar de Mesa. The problem is, his teacher already has a boyfriend, Leandro Baldemor. So his opportunity to "be" with the woman he's obsessed with comes when her twin dies, and he sees her in the morgue and decides to be with her.

How did he feel doing that scene? *"Di ko na po alam. Sabi ni* Maricar *sa akin, ako na lang ang bahala, tutal, patay naman siya sa eksena."* Didn't he hesitate when he was told his first role in the movies would be a bold one? *"Hindi naman, kasi galing ako ng* theater . . . as an actor, *kailangan gawin lahat yan."* He didn't balk at playing a guy who does it with a dead body? *"Ay hindi . . . kasi desidido talaga ako na mag-artista."*

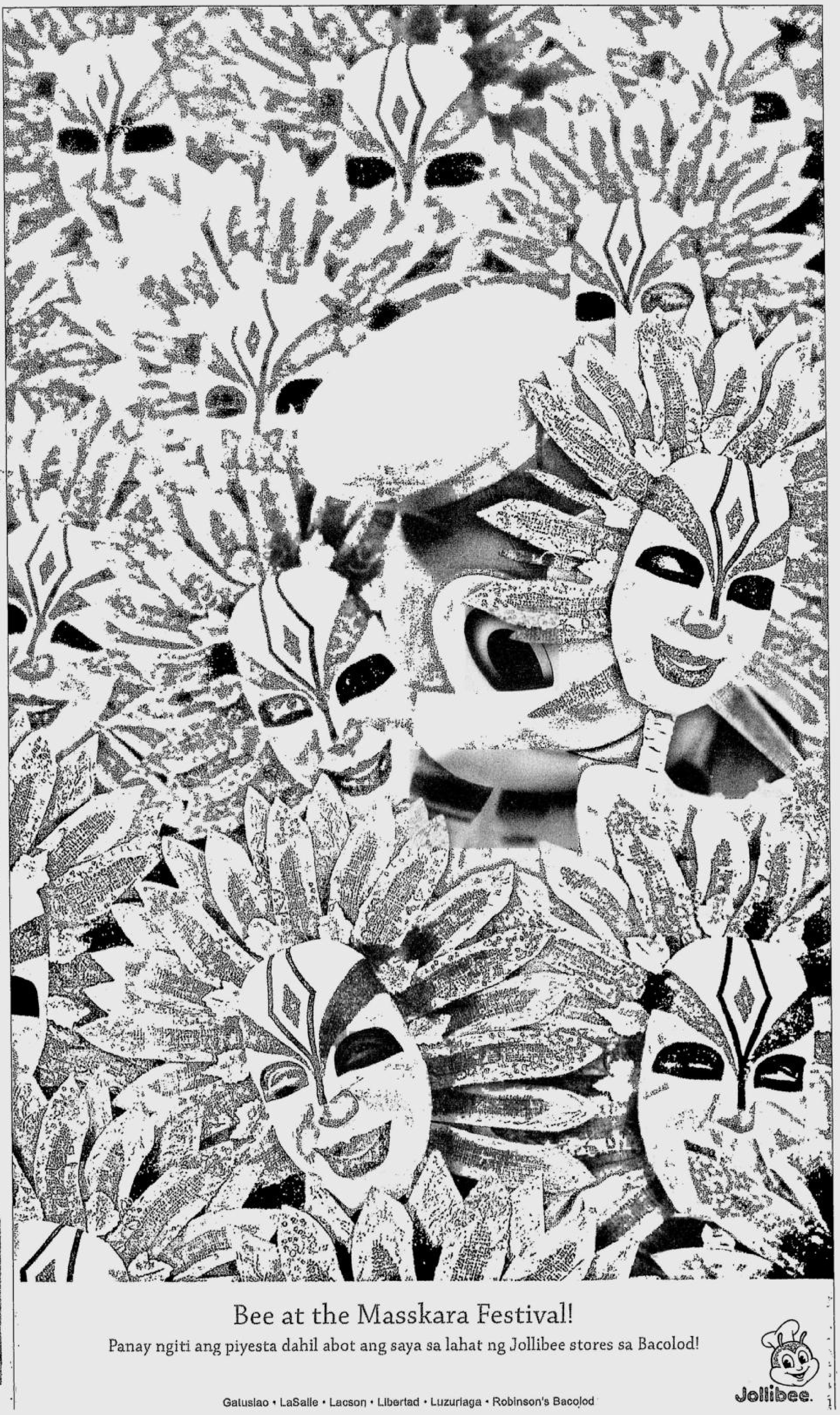
Sensitive subject

So, why did Direk Maryo entrust Iraz with a project that deals with such a sensitive subject, since this is his first movie? "*Nakita ko yung* intensity *ni* Iraz. *Tapos, eto nga, sabi ko,* willing *ka bang medyo* sexy? *Hindi siya* willing *maghubad. Pero sabi ko, maganda yung* role, I will treat the necrophilia scene *hanggang kalahating katawan lang.*"

But why this particular episode? "He can look nerdy, *e. Parang may* disturbed look *yung mukha niya, yung mata niya, akala mo may iniisip na iba, o lumilipad ang utak. Tapos, hindi masyadong* complex *yung* character—*pwede niyang atakihin ng simple.*"

Iraz is into clean living, apparently. "*Kasi parang hindi umiinom ata ito e . . . minsan nakikita ko siyang nagbe-*beer, *pero* I haven't really seen him do anything like marijuana or anything. *Mas mahirap mag-*draw-out *kasi wala siyang* experience *na pagbabasehan.*"

MELCHOR. Plays a student in love with his teacher.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Aga and Claudine co-star in 'Kailangan Kita'

By Edmund L. Sicam

BARRETTO AND MUHLACH. From breezy love story to more passionate drama.

AGA Muhlach looks stressed out and harassed as he faces members of the press during the press conference for "Kailangan Kita,' which co-stars Claudine Barretto. Not only was he suffering from a backache that required a trip to the hospital, he was also worried that his movie still had two shooting days to go, and post-production work like dubbing to deal with, and the movie's playdate has been set for Nov.6

"When it rains, it pours," he sighs. *"Ang dami kasing nangyayari ngayon. Ang dami kong gustong ikuwento, pero hindi ko puwede ikuwento sa inyo . . . Mababa lang talaga ang* morale *ko ngayon . . .na-tiyempo lang…"* We nag him to share his *kuwentos* with us but he say he'd rather not.

Weekends

So why is the movie taking so long to finish? "Kasi weekends *lang ang* shoot *namin.* Out of town (Bicol and Pampanga), so, *kung may isang* day *na ma-*cancel… additional one weekend *yun… Tapos, yung* movie, *mahirap talaga. Ang isang* sequence *minsan, hindi namin nasasarado …umaabot kami ng two days, three days, ganoon."*

He talks about a scene that took a full eight hours just to set up—because it was in the middle of a field, the equipment had to be carried through a path that only carabaos could go through, and because the director (Rory Quintos) was *"mabusisi."* There were times she'd have 25 camera set-ups for just one scene.

He talks about yet another montage that involved a boat on a lake that she wanted different angles of, and the boat was rather difficult to maneuver.

Another factor that slowed them down was script revision. *"Nag-iba kami ng nag-iba… nung* start *kasi,* Star Cinema wanted light *lang.* In the course of shooting, *biglang nag-*revise ng nag-revise, and I think close to 70 percent was revised. *Mas bumigat ng bumigat…"*

What started as a feel-good love story became more about passion. *"Parang umabot sa* point *na nag-*shooting *kami, binitawan na namin yung script kasi marami nang* revisions, *sinunod na lang namin ang direktor. Kaya yung kabuuan ng* movie, *kung ipapakuwento mo sa akin, hindi ko makukuwento talaga.* Love story *pa rin siya,* definitely."

Love scenes

We want to find out if he and Claudine have a bedroom scene. Aga jokes, *"Wala. Walang kuwarto dito, puro nasa bukid lang kami…"* So how were their loves scenes? *"Sa amin ni* Claudine *kasi, kahit ano, gagawin namin. Nung nagkaroon ng* love scene, *nakahanda na kami. Kinukuwento namin kung anong gagawin namin, hanggang magte*-take na… *talagang* to the max! *Si direk na ang huminto. Sabi niya, hindi puwede yan. Pero kami,* focused *kami,* game *kami."* The director wanted to get a PG-13 rating, so she toned down the love scenes.

When we examine the publicity stills of Aga and Claudine, they look different from the usual glamour shots taken in the studio. They remind us of the photos promoting bold movies except these are tamer—but the message is clear: this is no *pa*-tweetums love story.

How was it, working with Claudine, during this difficult time in her life? "She's okay. *Nung una . . . maraming hindi nakakaintindi sa kanya. Isa na ako dun.* I had to meet with her and ask what the real score was. *Habang ginagawa namin yung pelikula, nagkuwento kami ng nagkuwento, hanggang naging klarong-klaro . . . talagang naawa ako sa kanya."*

More serious

On Claudine's part, she tells us that Aga is still pretty much the same. *"Ngayon nga lang, may pamilya na…*plus, *mas seryoso na ng konti, pero makulit pa rin… ngayon, hindi na* little sister *yung usapan namin…medyo seryosohan na."* Claudine admits to being 50-percent healed from her experience, and credits Aga as someone. who really believed in her.

In "Kailangan Kita," Aga and Claudine play cooks. Claudine says that Aga had to be more techinical than her, since her character's talent for cooking is more innate, while Aga plays someone who studied cooking in New York. They took a crash course in cooking with a chef, just to look credible in the movie.

But Aga says proudly, *"Sa paggawa namin nito, maamoy mo talaga ang pagkain sa pelikula…"* Says Claudine, *"Makikita mo dito ang* cooking *hindi lahat aral,* it's really innate *na talaga."*

The film has and taken up so much of Aga's free time that he's having second thoughts about a forthcoming project. "I told them *na* if they already have to start, I cannot. After this movie *hindi ako magtatrabaho muna."* He misses seeing his kids and spending time with his family. He says with the smile of a proud father, *"Yung babae ko, tumatayo na. Ang sarap, ano? Ang galing…"*

Young people cite most-viewed TV channels

By Leia Torre

LAZARO. Her "The Probe Team" on GMA-7 tackles different topics in one telecast.

OUR television networks try to outdo each other capturing the attention of viewers. When one station comes up with an original idea that clicks with the audience, other stations imitate the programming gambit, so our channels' shows look and sound alike. Despite this, however, some channels are preferred by viewers. Here's why:

Homegrown soaps

"The TV channel I find myself switching to most of the time is Channel 2. I like its homegrown soaps, although their male actors cry a lot. I can take that because they act with more passion. The channel also features more believable names and more realistic plotlines compared to the others. And I find their newscasts' content and reporting style more relevant and interesting."*—Mary Ann Quinto, 20.*

Musical variety shows

"I like Channel 2, ABS-CBN. Though they didn't win the Best Station award, at least *hindi sila* corny. *Tulad nung mga* talk shows *nila, magaganda yung* topics. *Yung* musical-variety shows *naman, magaganda yung* sets. Plus, *di sila nakakasakit ng damdamin sa mga* comments *nila, di sila nagpaparamdam,* so professional *talaga sila.*

"Maganda din yung nagpapalabas sila ng cartoons for kids with a classical theme. *Kasi di ba ang mga* kids, *tamad magbasa?* So *pwedeng dun na nila malaman yung mga* classic stories.

"Okay din yung game show *nila,* 'Game Ka Na Ba?.' Unlike 'The Weakest Link' and 'Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?,' patterned *talaga* for Filipinos. *Meron kang napapanalunan* for yourself, *at meron ding para sa iba. Yung mga* questions, *tamang-tama lang sa* IQ *ng* average contestant."*—Frances de Leon, 21.*

Fast-paced

"Favorite *ko,* IBC-13. Usually, game shows *at* news *lang naman ang inaabangan ko.* And for me, *mas* fun yung game shows *na ino*-offer *ng* IBC. I like 'The Weakest Link' *dahil* fast-paced *siya,* you can see *kung gaano* ka-stupid *yung* mistakes *ng* contestants (*at minsan ako rin!*), because they're under time pressure.

"I also like 'Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?' *Hindi magulo yung* format *ng* show and I learn some new things while watching.

"Mas gusto ko yung content *ng kanilang* news reports, *kasi* they don't report stories *na mas bagay i-*report *sa* 'Ripley's Believe It or Not.'"*—Boyet Hernandez Jr., 17.*

Diverse selection

"ABS-CBN is the local channel for me. Maybe it's because they offer a diverse selection of programs. They have a broad coverage of important news items, which they report in an appropriate manner—except *dun sa mga* sensational news items *nila.*

"Their main game show, "Game Ka Na Ba?," is also one of the more generous game shows. "When it comes to soap operas, they also do better than the others. At least, *kahit* unbelievable *yung mga kuwento ng* telenovelas *nila, hindi pa rin kasing* dense *nung* characters in the other channels' soaps."*—Liezel Eleazar, 22.*

Foreign series

"I usually tune in to RPN-9 because it has more foreign TV series that I love to watch. I particularly like 'Ally McBeal.' It's a very funny series and I like the way her feelings are depicted—in a surreal manner. It gives the show its own unique style.

"I also enjoy 'The Practice.' While 'Ally McBeal' shows the lighter side of being a lawyer, this one shows its seriousness."*—Joseph Bryan Cabrera, 24.*

Less hysterical

"GMA 7. I prefer their news programs, they're less hysterical than those of ABS-CBN's, for example. GMA's primetime news has a more comprehensive and professional delivery, *kaya mas* believable.

"I don't usually watch telenovelas, but I try to watch documentaries like "The Probe Team." They tackle different topics in one telecast, so it's more interesting for all kinds of people. *'Di ba mas* interesting *naman talaga ang* truth *keysa sa* fiction?

"I also like GMA's competent broadcast journalists."*—Mai-Mai Concepcion, 21.*

Tips

"Net 25. *"Kahit di ako* Iglesia Ni Cristo, *pinapanood ko siya* because of one show, *yung* 'Our House.' I'm an Interior Design student *kasi,* so *marami akong nakukuhang* tips *at* new ideas for my plates.

"Gusto ko rin ang Studio 23 *kasi magaganda yung mga* foreign series *nila,* like 'Seventh Heaven' *at* 'Gilmore Girls.' *Ang nakakainis lang sa* Studio 23, *yung mga* VJ *na bigla na lang magpapakita."—Xavier Francisco, 19.*

Ethan Hawke loves writing but feels it's scary

By Paul Majendie

FRANKFURT—For Hollywood star Ethan Hawke, writing novels is more rewarding than making movies—even if he does have to put up with some blunt literary criticism from his wife Uma Thurman.

Tinge of regret

And, with a tinge of regret, he admits he may never fulfill his ambition to work with cult director Quentin Tarantino. That is very much his wife's role.

Hawke, at the Frankfurt Book Fair to publicize his novel "Ash Wednesday," won't be giving up the day job just yet. He garnered an Oscar nomination this year for his role as a rookie cop in "Training Day" and his zest for acting has not dimmed.

But he does admit: "Writing is more satisfying to me at this moment in my life because I have had to work much harder for it.

"But writing feels so much scarier. Stepping off your little terrain, it is frightening for me but much more rewarding if some aspect of it goes well." Hawke, who rose to fame in the '80s in "Dead Poets Society" and met his wife when they were filming "Gattaca" together, used to show Thurman his book in progress but has changed his mind now.

Irritated

"I started to but she is too critical and then I would get irritated with her and she would say 'If you don't want my criticisms then don't show it to me' and I said 'Alright I won't.'"

Thurman is currently making "Kill Bill" with Tarantino, the director who says he has always looked on her as "my actress" ever since they made "Pulp Fiction" together.

HAWKE. "Ash Wednesday" is his second novel.

And that torpedoes Hawke's chances of ever working with Tarantino. "I think he is so obsessed with my wife that I don't think I ever will. That is the one great director I am going to miss," he says with a philosophical shrug.

Deeply distrustful of celebrity status and disillusioned by Hollywood, Hawke prefers life in New York with his wife and two young children.

He appears uncomfortable with the ego-driven world of Tinseltown. Becoming a father has given him a sense of proportion.

And the writing—this is his second book—has proved to be more than just an indulgence. "Ash Wednesday," the tale of a commitment-phobe whose life is turned around when his girlfriend becomes pregnant, has garnered good reviews and he is already thinking about number three.

Privacy

"What I enjoy about writing is the privacy, how you can take your time, the peaceful nature of it as opposed to the carnival act that is making a movie," he told reporters.

Hawke, renowned for his forthright liberal views on politics, admits that in the current climate in the United States he feels uncomfortable about speaking out.

Reuters

I've got mail

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

DEAR Clara,

First of all, I'd like to thank you for introducing me to cyberspace. The internet is a wonderful thing, isn't it? Excitement fills me up each time I access my e-mail and literally open the doors to a brave, new world that was once off limits to the likes of me, who readily confesses to being totally clueless when it comes to information technology. Indeed, it's the wave of the future—and the future is here.

Treasure trove

I'm particularly thrilled to find a virtual treasure trove of wit and wisdom in the internet. It's bringing me to a higher plane that connects me to anyone and anything beyond any time and space barriers. I'd like to share some of them with you—as I know you will similarly be enriched by them.

This is quite ironic because, for quite a time, I was afraid of the internet. Someone once told me that it was the work of the Evil One. (I think that's how they got to slandering Bill Gates as the Anti-Christ. But that's another story.) And I believed it—because the internet can be the most efficient purveyor of lies, pornography, worldly lifestyles and ungodly values. You remember, I once forbade you to chat because you could be beguiled by a sweet-talking stranger who could turn out to be a kidnapper—or worse, a serial rapist and murderer! Yes, I know, my imagination has this tendency to go on overdrive—especially in matters concerning your welfare.

Profound insights

But I'm glad to have been proven wrong. While the internet is a deep pit of filth from the other side, it is also a rich source of divinely inspired messages. I'm very happy that a lot of people are so moved by my letters to you through this column that they write in to share their own experiences and lessons in life, as well as their profound insights about God. And they come from all over.

Like this one from Esmeralda Gomez-McKnight of Los Angeles, Calif.: "Give God what's right—not what's left."

Isn't that a cutie? And so true, too. Oftentimes, we give God what's wrong and expect Him to make it right. Not that He's not willing and able to do that for us—but wouldn't it be so much easier and faster for God's plan for us to unfold in all its glory if we give Him what's right in the first place? Wouldn't it be so much better if we help God help us help ourselves?

We should also give Him the best of us. Oftentimes, we give that only to ourselves. We only offer ourselves to God when we're already down and out, or old and gray, or sick and dying—in other words, what's left of us after we're through with the best of us.

Worldly dreams

When we're young and full of energy and vigor, bursting with life and excitement, on fire with idealism and passion, we offer ourselves at the altar of our worldly dreams and we relegate God to the dark, forgotten recesses of our minds.

Which brings me to this one from Chrissie San Luis of Melbourne: "Are you wrinkled with burden? Come to the church for a facelift." Not to the beauty salon! Truth to tell, we'll never have wrinkles and there will never be any need for a facelift if we constantly connect with the Greatest Beauty Expert and Skin Care Specialist.

Come to think of it, isn't He the one who gave us our beauty in the first place? We spend tons of money on rejuvenating creams, lotions, gels and solutions to no avail. What can sag *will* sag, and what can fall *will fall*—and no amount of time spent at the spa can change that.

But what we can change is our attitude—and that's where connection with the Divine Rejuvenator comes in. We should consult with Him always—in fact, entrust to Him our lives and just let Him do with it as He pleases. After all, how can we ever claim to be able to run our life when this life was created by Him and He just assigned us to be caretakers of it?

Here's another knockout from Anton Gruermann from Bonn to bring the point even closer: "When praying, don't give God instructions. Just report for duty."

Master

Yes, Clara, sometimes, we easily forget that He's the Master and it's not for us to order Him around. We ask God what He can do for us when we should ask ourselves what we can do for Him!

Of course, I'm not saying that we should not ask Him for provisions, because a good Commander-in-Chief gives more than adequate supplies. But we should also listen to what our marching orders are for the day. We should constantly be reminded of our mission so we don't end up doing —as we often do—the exact opposite of what we have been sent to accomplish.

We have to realize that, when the Lord provides for us, when He enriches and prospers us, it is not only because He loves us—it is so that we are best equipped to do what He wants to happen in our life. The provisions are not an end but a means —of empowerment. They are to enable and ennoble us for that which God has created us.

Our true purpose in life is to serve the Lord. But then, quite unhappily, Clara, as this quip from Arnold de Castro of Dili, East Timor so succinctly put it, "Most people want to serve God, but only in an advisory position."

Know what, Clara? A lot of Christians fall into this trap. Believing that they are so close to the Lord and they know Him so well, they proceed to act like they were even higher than Him. Worse, they don't even know that that's what they are doing. When you read the Bible and listen to them talk, you'll see that they use and interpret the verses to suit their motives and justify their own failures and frailties.

Desensitization program

Fact is, "We don't change God's message—His message changes us," as Gemma Velarde of Zurich writes. We must be aware, Clara, that Satan, the master of deceit and disguise, has a desensitization program going on right now in the world. And, oftentimes, he misuses and deconstructs even the words of God to subvert His will. We really have to use our best lights to see through the mirrors all around us, or we'll be misled.

We must always bear in mind, my precious Clara, what Clarence Auditivo from Dublin cautions: "Never give the devil a ride—he will always want to drive." And this, too, from Fracis Norton from London: "Give Satan an inch, and he'll be a ruler."

I remember a priest telling me that there is a de-sinning process going on today in our lives. As in, what constituted a grievous transgression before is no longer considered sinful. There was a time, when a single woman fell for a rich but very much married man, she was ostracized by her own family, called a harlot, the devil's concubine—and she'd wear the infamous scarlet letter signifying her sinfulness for the rest of her life.

Today, what do they call a single woman who falls for a rich but much-married man? "Wise, practical, a woman who uses her brains." She can even be the object of envy and, in some circles, an icon worthy of emulation.

Deep disappointment

To further illustrate how perverted our thinking can be regarding what's right and wrong nowadays: There was a mother who came to me to share her deep disappointment with her daughter, who fell in love with a married man, As it turned out, she was livid not because the daughter shacked up with a married man but because the married man wasn't rich.! *"Kakabit din lang, hindi pa sa mayaman. E, kapareho rin niyang isang kahig, isang tuka, Ate* Luds. *Binlid ang lalamunin nila araw-araw."*

Which brings me to our last quote, from Hannah Vera-Sternbeck of Connecticut: "Man's way leads to a hopeless end—God's way leads to an endless hope."

Indeed, Clara, enshrine this in your heart and recall it whenever you are confused, at a loss, or drifting away. Consecrate your life to the Lord. Make every waking moment an opportunity to love Him; every breath, an occasion to make Him happy; and every smile, an event to celebrate His presence in your life.

This way, you shall overcome, you shall prosper, you shall be at peace.

For your insights and comments, <badids2000@yahoo.com>

SWITCHING CHANNELS

Ciara, Karylle, Isabella push youth power

By Edmund L. Sicam

WHAT do Ciara Sotto, Karylle and Isabella have in common? Easy: They are all singing daughters of musical divas—Helen Gamboa, Zsa Zsa Padilla and Kuh Ledesma, respectively. Plus: They have been chosen by Power Network as Youth Ambassadors who will not only display their talent on stage but advance youth power as well.

They will be hosting TV specials featuring events, music, adventures and people all over the country in the eMAP Project, which will be launched at the National Arts Center in Mt. Makiling, Los Banos, Laguna with a benefit concert headlined by Kuh Ledesma on Oct. 26. The concert will be taped and aired on Nov. 9 at 11 p.m. on RPN 9.

The three discussed the project recently at Rockwell. Karylle, a graduate of Communication Technology at the Ateneo says, "It's a great responsibility and a chance for us to show that we can have fun without going out of bounds. Isabella, an International School student, agrees, "We're going to talk to governors and youth leaders about what the youth can do to help the country."

For details, call 920-9167.

Hunks' concerts abroad

The Hunks—Diether Ocampo, Piolo Pascual, Jericho Rosales, Carlos Agassi and Bernard Palanca—have just returned from successful concerts in Hong Kong and Dubai, where screaming fans sometimes drowned out their singing. The minute the boys landed at the airport, they were already being mobbed by young fans.

On Sept. 19, the group performed at the Al-Wasi Stadium in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Halfway through the show, the Hunks welcomed their special guest Rica Peralejo who did a medley of Madonna hits and "It's Raining Men." Then she called on her boyfriend Bernard Palanca to sing with her. They did "All My Life" and "Is It Okay If I Call You Mine." Although Bernard is more of a rocker, he sang the medley like a true balladeer.

After resting for two weeks, the group flew out of the country again to perform at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center, with Vina Morales as special guest. The Hunks managed to fill up the large venue, proving that the group has fans all over the world.

Next month, The Hunks will be returning to the US for a series of concerts.

CIARA/ D2

SOTTO. A singer like her mom, Helen Gamboa.

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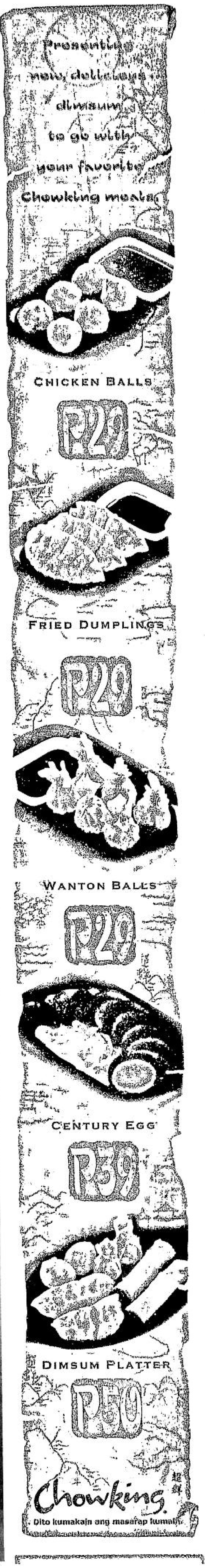
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‘Secrets’ in new Harry Potter film bared

JOSH Lucas and Reese Witherspoon in “Sweet Home Alabama.”

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THE NEXT installment in the Harry Potter film series, “Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets,” won’t be shown until next month, but the series’ fans are eager to find out what those secrets are. Well, here’s a preview of at least some of them:

This time around, young wizard Harry Potter (Daniel Radcliffe), and his chums Ron Weasley (Rupert Grint) and Hermione Granger (Emma Watson) face new challenges as they are about to start their second year at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

Harry has not had a good summer. Not only has he had to put up with his overbearing Aunt Petunia and Uncle Vernon, but his best friends Ron and Hermione haven’t been replying to his letters all summer long.

Then, suddenly, a house elf named Dobby appears and warns Harry of great danger if he attempts to return to Hogwarts. It turns out that, to prevent Harry from going back to the school, Dobby had kept Ron and Hermione’ letters from reaching the young wizard.

What’s so terrible about going back to Hogwarts? It turns out that a dark force is terrorizing the school, and Dobby doesn’t want Harry to become one of its victims.

But Ron comes to Harry’s rescue. Together with his brothers, he is able to spirit Harry away—in a flying car!

Next, the two boys are prevented from entering Platform 9 3/4 so they can board the Hogwarts Express back to school. So, they have to take emergency action to avoid being late for the new term.

They do make it back to Hogwarts in time, but they incur the wrath of Professor Snape, who calls for their expulsion!

But Harry also has his supporters, who come to his defense. These new characters include Ron’s little sister Ginny, would-be photographer Colin, and rather strangely, the new Professor of Defense Against the Dark Arts, Gilderoy Lockhart (Kenneth Branagh).

It turned out, however, that Lockhart is siding with Harry only to serve his own selfish interests. And he can’t help Harry in fighting the sinister new terror that has the school in its deadly grip. Once again, Harry has to save the day alone.

‘Swan Lake’

The MCO Arts Festival 2002 presents its fifth event, a ballet, “Swan Lake” at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 9, at the Francisco Santiago Hall of Equitable PCI Bank Tower 1, Makati City.

The presentation features the dancers of the Association of Ballet Acedemies, Philippines, a nationwide organization of ballet institutions founded in 1993. Call 818-1403.

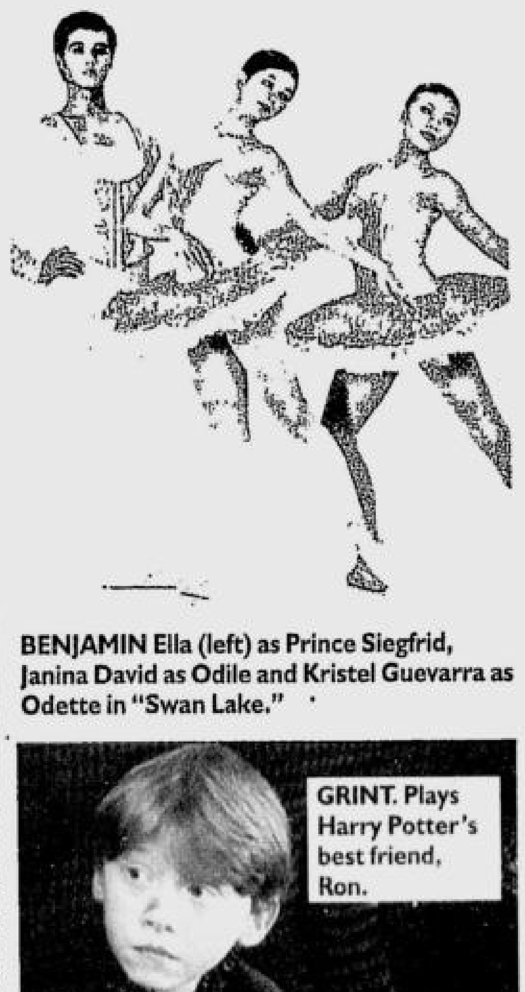
Spotlight on Josh Lucas

For years, Josh Lucas has been acting on TV and in films, playing a great variety of roles. For one reason or other, however, stardom has eluded him.

Happily, Josh’s long wait has finally come to an end.

In the hit film, “Sweet Home Alabama,” he shares stellar billing with the now very popular Reese Witherspoon.

He plays the role of Jake, the husband she left in Alabama, but must now come to terms with so that she can marry the fabulously wealthy man of her dreams. Of course, he doesn’t make it easy for her to get what she wants!


BENJAMIN Ella (left) as Prince Siegfrid, Janina David as Odile and Kristel Guevarra as Odette in “Swan Lake.”

GRINT. Plays Harry Potter’s best friend, Ron.

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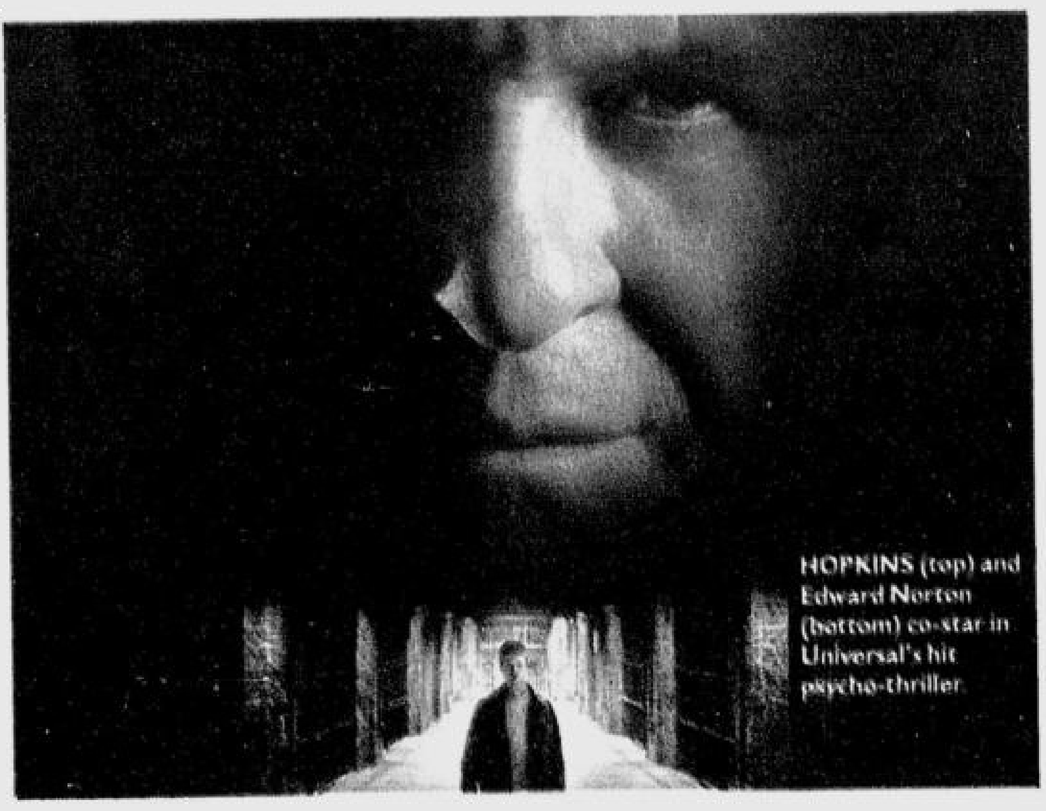

HOPKINS (top) and Edward Norton (bottom) co-star in Universal's hit psycho-thriller.

'Red Dragon' retains grip on top spot at box office

LOS ANGELES—Audiences continue to devour Hannibal Lecter's latest thriller, with "Red Dragon" taking in $17.7 million to remain the No. 1 movie for a second straight weekend.

New movies

"Red Dragon," with Anthony Hopkins reprising his role as Hannibal the Cannibal, fended off a rush of new movies. Taye Diggs and Sanaa Lathan's romantic comedy "Brown Sugar" fared the best among newcomers, placing third with $10.7 million.

The top 20 movies at North American theaters Friday through Sunday, followed by distribution studio, gross, number of theater locations, average receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled Monday by Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc. and Nielsen EDI Inc. are:

1. "Red Dragon," Universal, $17.7 million, 3,363 locations, $5,250 average, $63.3 million, two weeks.
2. "Sweet Home Alabama," Disney, $14.3 million, 3,313 locations, $4,305 average, $84.7 million, three weeks.
3. "Brown Sugar," Fox Searchlight, $10.7 million, 1,372 locations, $7,827 average, $10.7 million, one week.
4. "The Transporter," Fox, $9.1 million, 2,573 locations, $3,540 average, $9.1 million, one week.
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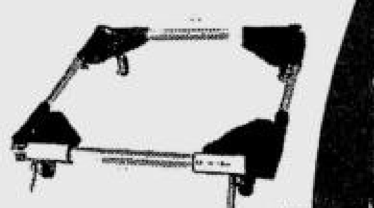

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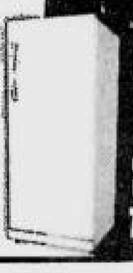

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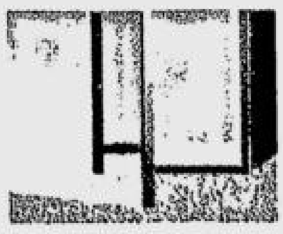

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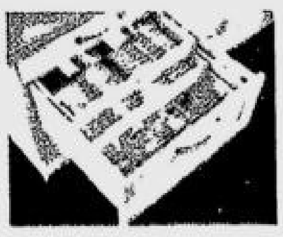

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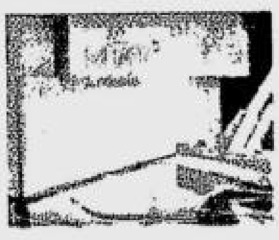

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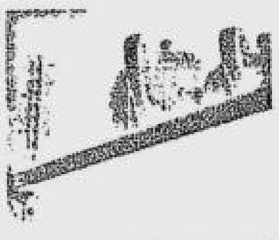

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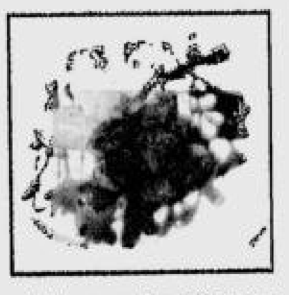
1/2 kilo chicken, chopped into bitesize pieces
1/3 cup garlic, chopped
1 tsp whole black peppercorns
1/4 cup vinegar
2 pcs bay leaves
1 tbsp Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce
3 cups water or stock
salt or fish sauce

Preparation
Wash the pork and chicken pieces. Heat a heavy saucepan and brown pork pieces. Set aside. In the same saucepan, brown the chicken pieces. Set aside. Put the pork pieces back into the pan and add the chopped and roasted garlic. Add the vinegar and scrape the brown bits from the bottom of the pan. Add the bay leaves, whole peppercorns and Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce. Add 2 cups of water and simmer the mixture.
When the pork pieces are half done, add the chicken and the remaining stock and continue cooking until the pork pieces are tender and the chicken thighs are cooked through.
More stock may be added until the desired tenderness is achieved. However, the trick is adding just a little water or stock at a time so that the flavour of the stew is not lost. Season to taste with salt or fish sauce. Serve with freshly cooked plain rice. Serving size: 4 persons.



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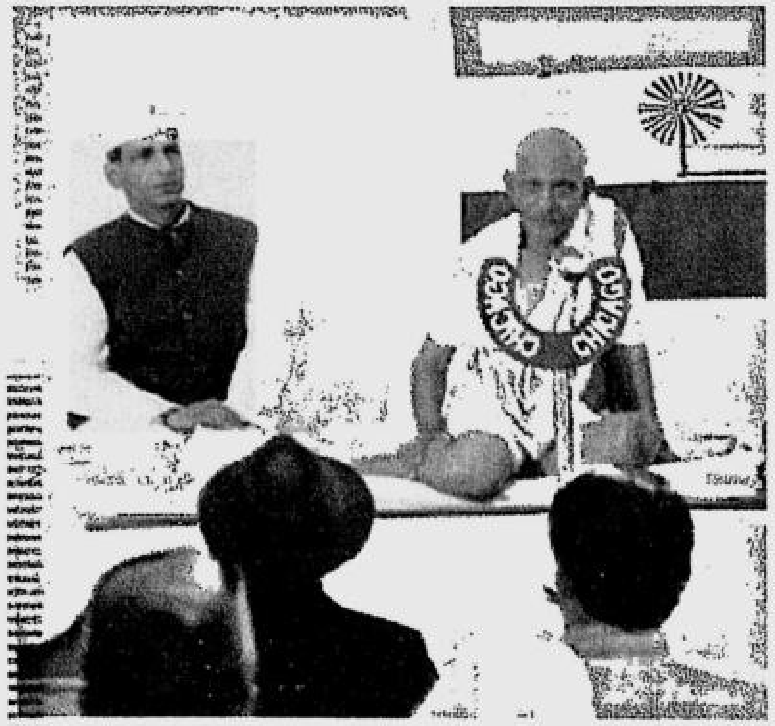
Lea & Perrins HOW DID YOU DISCOVER IT?

Indian film showing this month at Greenbelt's ArtFilm theater


NEHRU and Mahatma Gandhi played by lookalike actors in a scene from "Legend of Bhagat Singh."

By Nestor U. Torre

WE don't get to see many films from India in these Hollywood-dominated parts, and that's a pity. After all, India produces more movies than any other country—more than 700 annually.

Freedom fighter

Happily, we'll soon be viewing an outstanding Indian movie at Greenbelt's Art Film cinema. From Oct. 27 to 29, that venue for non-mainstream films will be screening "The Legend of Bhagat Singh," a period movie that tells the story of a famous Indian freedom fighter who gave up his life for his country.

Why only three days? Well, the fear may be that there aren't enough people here interested in Indian movies for this film to be shown for the standard one-week run. Therefore, it behooves lovers of non-Hollywood movies to see this film, to prove that there is a sizable audience here for movies like this.

Richness and variety

Only when we view films from all over the world can we appreciate the richness and variety of cinema, and thus merit being called lovers of film.

"The Legend of Bhagat Singh" is directed by Rajkumar Santoshi. It starts with a gripping scene that shows three bodies being smuggled out of the back gate of Lahore Central Jail. They are secretly cremated by British officers. The next day, the incident causes chaos throughout the country.

Successive flashbacks explain why by detailing key incidents in Bhagat Singh's life: At 12, he agonized over the horrific Jallainwala Baug massacre. Next, he participated in Mahatma Gandhi's non-cooperation movement in 1921, but eventually got disillusioned and thought up his own strategy to free India.

Hunger strike

This landed him in jail, where he went on a hunger strike to protest the harsh and inhuman conditions that prisoners had to endure.

The film's second half focuses on courtroom sequences, leading to the judge proclaiming his verdict in a near-empty court, then on to the film's heartrending climax.

The film stars Ajay Devgan, Sushant Singh and Amrita Rao, whose felt performances have been praised by Indian film critics. Devgan, who plays the Indian martyr, gets the best reviews: "He essays his role with conviction. He portrays the different aspects of Bhagat Singh very convincingly, from turbulent teenager to activist and eventual martyr. Providing an ideal foil for him is Sushant Singh as Sukhdev."

Moving saga

As for director Santoshi, "He seems to have finally rediscovered his touch. The result is a truly moving saga of the revolutionary. He emerges as a flesh-and-blood character, not some idealized superhero. The director also memorably recreates historical incidents like the Kakori conspiracy."

Also lauded are the movie's "strong screenplay and powerful dialogue," the "very good camerawork by K.V. Anand," and 'A.R. Rahman's evocative background score."

Speaking of the screenplay, it's by Anjum Rajabali, who is praised for having done justice to the production's complex and important subject matter:

Tough task

"Scripting the life of a legend was a tough task, but this film's screenplay unfolds smoothly, dissolving slickly from one scene to another. There are no sudden jumps in the plot, nor does the film turn out to be a mere documentary."

So far so promising. So, on Oct. 27, do think about watching "The Legend of Bhagat Singh" at Greenbelt's ArtFilm theater. If this Indian film does well on its limited run, it could encourage other theaters to also showcase non-mainstream movies from other countries, and the local moviegoing scene will be the richer for it.

INDIAN film star Ajay Devgan as Bhagat Singh.

'Red Dragon' . . .

From page E1

Greek Wedding," IFC Films, $8.5 million, 2,016 locations, $4,193 average, $159 million, 26 weeks.

'The Tuxedo'

6. "The Tuxedo," DreamWorks, $7 million, 2,985 locations, $2,361 average, $37 million, three weeks.

7. "White Oleander," Warner Bros., $5.6 million, 1,510 locations, $3,714 average, $5.6 million, one week.

8. "Tuck Everlasting," Disney, $5.3 million, 1,185 locations, $4,446 average, $5.3 million, one week.

9. "Knockaround Guys," New Line, $5 million, 1,806 locations, $2,778 average, $5 million, one week.

10. "Barbershop," MGM, $4 million, 1,911 locations, $2,102 average, $65.4 million, five weeks.

11. "Jonah: A VeggieTales Movie," Artisan, $3.7 million, 1,174 locations, $3,120 average, $11 million, two weeks.

12. "The Rules of Attraction," Lions Gate, $2.5 million, 1,437 locations, $1,762 average, $2.5 million, one week.

13. "The Banger Sisters," Fox Searchlight, $1.7 million, 1,596 locations, $1,060 average, $27.3 million, four weeks.

14. "Moonlight Mile," Disney, $1.1 million, 437 locations, $2,563, $4 million, three weeks.

'The Four Feathers'

15. "The Four Feathers," Paramount, $959,075, 1,281 locations, $749 average, $17.2 million, four weeks.

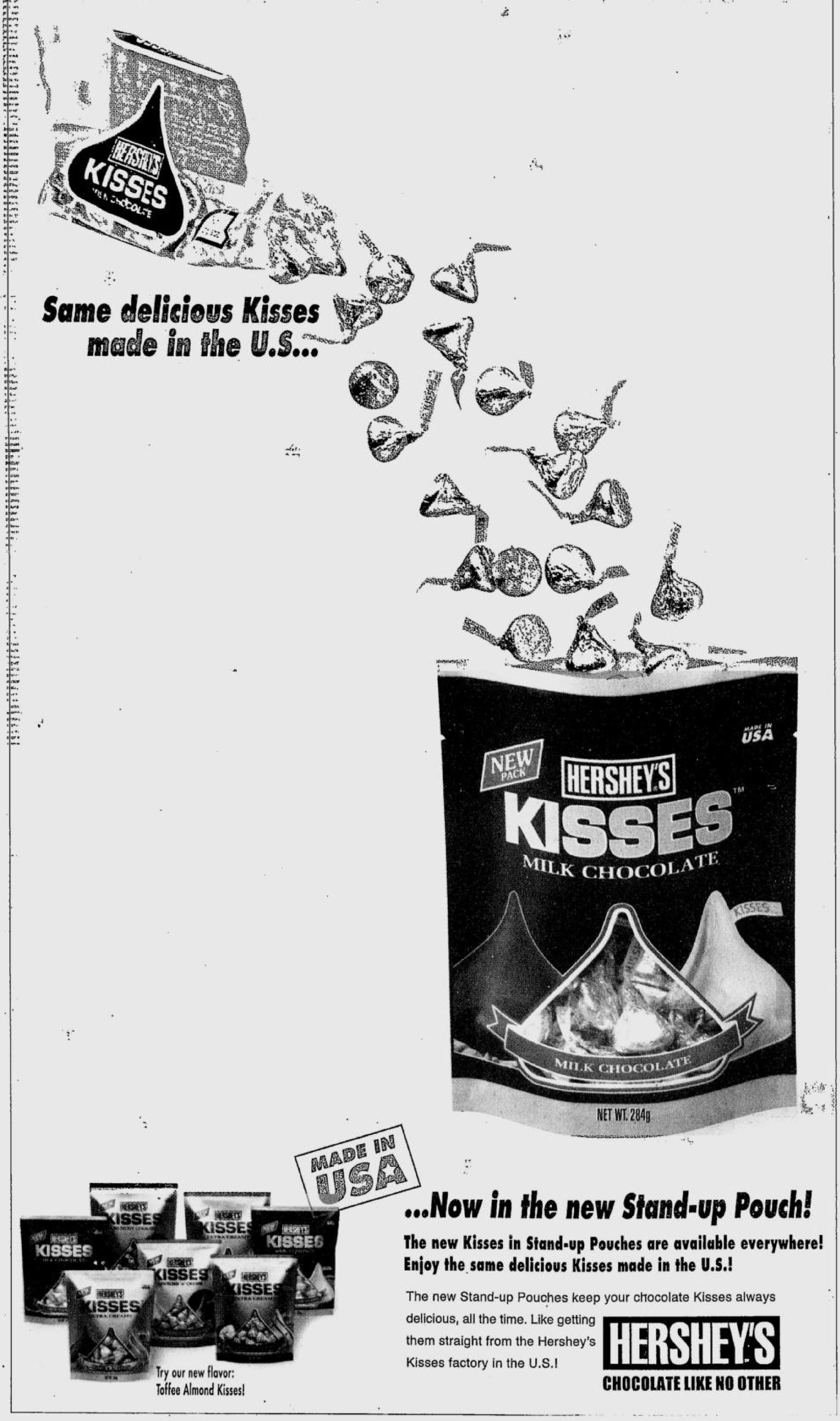
16. "Signs," Disney, $802,209, 802 locations, $1,000 average, $224.6 million, 11 weeks.

17. "One Hour Photo," Fox Searchlight, $741,253, 654 locations, $1,133 average, $30.1 million, eight weeks.

18. "Pokemon 4Ever," Miramax, $717,061, 249 locations, $2,880 average, $717,061, one week.

19. "Spirited Away," Disney, $634,901, 138 locations, $4,601 average, $2.7 million, four weeks.

20. "Spy Kids 2: The Island of Lost Dreams," Miramax, $564,824, 888 locations, $636 average, $84 million, 10 weeks. *AP*



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HERSHEY'S
CHOCOLATE LIKE NO OTHER

More Hollywood films made in the Philippines remembered

By Behn Cervantes

(Conclusion)

ANOTHER American production shot here starring veteran actor Van Heflin and Latin spitfire Rita Moreno, became controversial because Heflin complained that local make-up artists were using obsolete materials on his sagging cheeks. Moreno temporarily left the shoot to attend the 1962 Oscar awards in Hollywood, where she won as Best Supporting Actress for her bravura performance as Anita in "West Side Story."

Best gown

Heflin may have given our make-up artists a black eye, but the Pitoy Moreno creation Rita proudly wore at the grand affair was cited by famous costume designer Edith Head as the best gown of the night.

Other "Made in the Philippines" movies were made in quick succession. The actors came, saw and hoped to conquer (past) glory, but they were no longer getting media coverage.

There was another low-budget film shot in Los Baños in 1966 titled "Flight To Fury." The cast included Joseph Estrada and Robert Arevalo, along with an unknown Hollywood actor who had still to make his mark in the film capital. Nevertheless, he duly impressed Ateneo graduate Arevalo when the two had a discussion on acting. The unknown became a major star with the 1969 success of "Easy Rider." He is the multi-awarded Jack Nicholson.

Local film moppets

When I returned from the States in 1967, I caught a movie that starred local film moppets Vilma Santos and Roderick Paulate in a yarn about a bus full of Filipino children narrowly escaping Japanese ambushes during the Pacific War. It was titled "The Longest Hundred Miles." The beleaguered bus was headed for safety and a special mission in Bataan.

Originally, Bert Avellana had shot it in 1961 as "Bus To Bataan" with an English-speaking Filipino cast led by Ronald Remy and his wife Lily Marquez. Its script was written by Rolf Bayer, then a Manila resident who was responsible for the acclaimed "Badjao" screenplay. Hollywood bought the rights from Bayer and made a new version headlined by television star Doug MacLure. He was then married to Hollywood starlet Barbara Luna, who publicists said was part Filipina.

Beguilingly pretty

I was very taken by the beguilingly pretty and obviously talented young actress with Doug. I wondered who she was. A short time later, I wondered no more for she would shine on the screen as Katharine Ross in "The Graduate" with tyro Dustin Hoffman in 1968. In 1979 she would hold her own against box-office heavyweights Paul Newman and Robert Redford in "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid."

Cristina Ponce Enrile was cast in "Has Anybody Here Seen Chris," a low-budget film that followed the adventures of an American kid and his Filipino pal (Leo Martinez) being chased by local and international hoodlums as well as the CIA. The leads were Marsha Hunt and David Brian, who both had seen better years before their Manila assignment.

Manila looked good in that film, which also took advantage of photogenic Tagaytay and other rural sights including a toothless old woman smoking a large cigar and some Pinoys eating *balut*, as well as the mandatory cockfight.

There were many other films quietly shot here, including some co-productions with Premiere Productions meant for drive-in theaters and double-feature bills in the States. These were made quickly, although some of them included recognizable names in the cast. The "old" names were in unabashedly B-pictures conceived for a non-critical audience.

Impressive performances

The next big film to be shot here was "Too Late The Hero" starring Michael Caine, re-

MORE HOLLYWOOD / E6

BRANDO. Came to the Philippines to shoot "Apocalypse Now."

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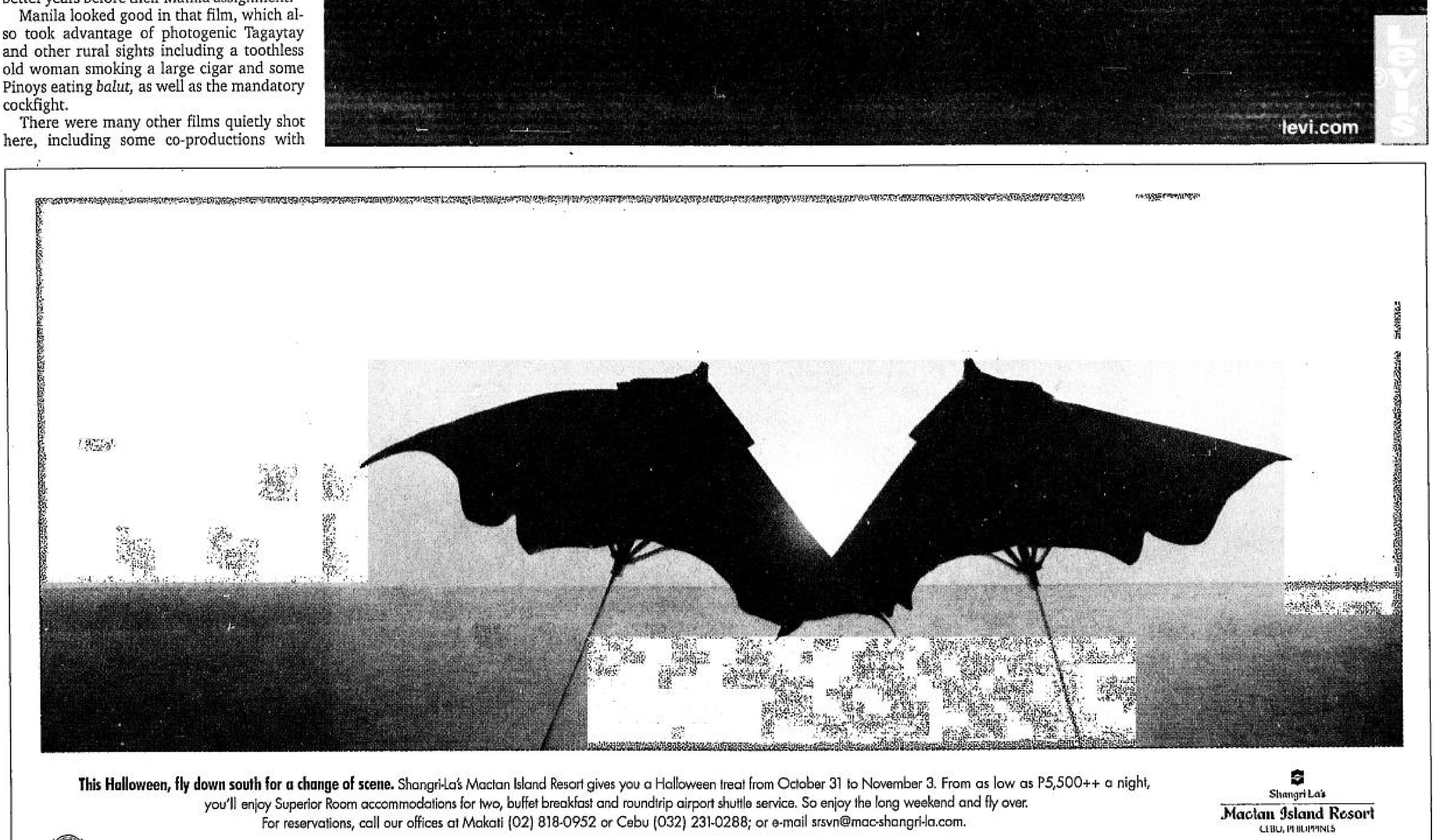

This Halloween, fly down south for a change of scene. Shangri-La's Mactan Island Resort gives you a Halloween treat from October 31 to November 3. From as low as P5,500++ a night, you'll enjoy Superior Room accommodations for two, buffet breakfast and roundtrip airport shuttle service. So enjoy the long weekend and fly over.
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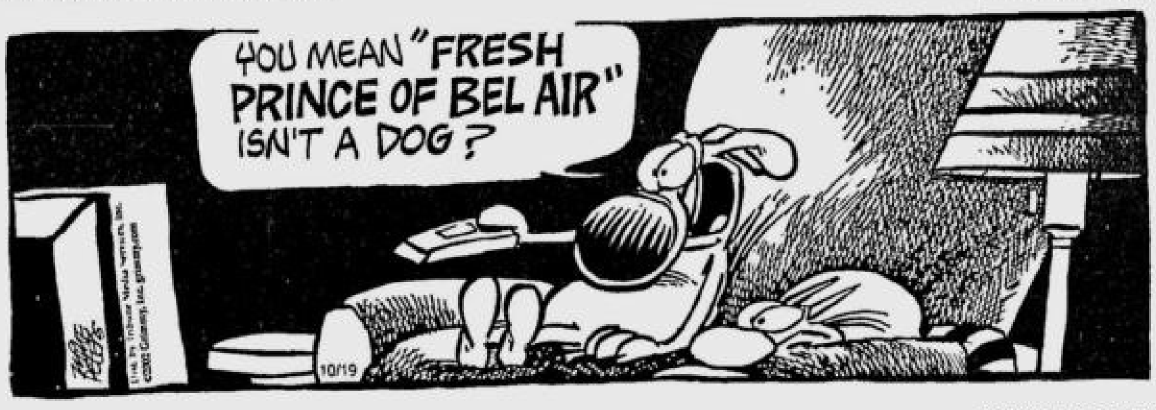
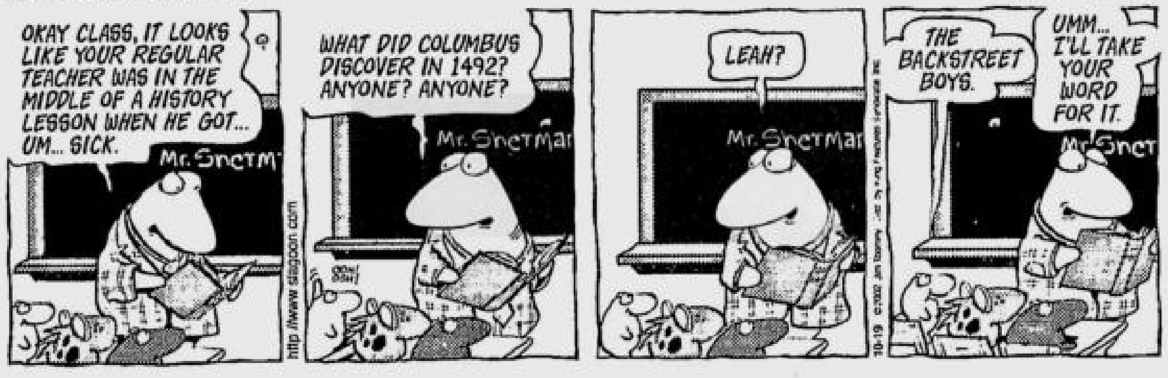
Mactan Island Resort is in Punta Engaño Road, Lapu-Lapu City 6015, Cebu, Philippines.

Shangri-La's
Mactan Island Resort
CEBU, PHILIPPINES

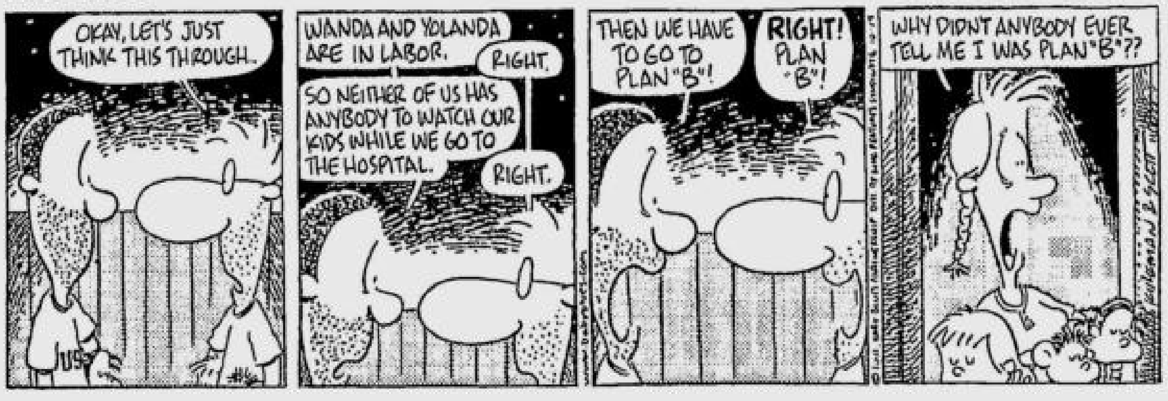
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS


YOU MEAN "FRESH PRINCE OF BEL AIR" ISN'T A DOG?
10/19

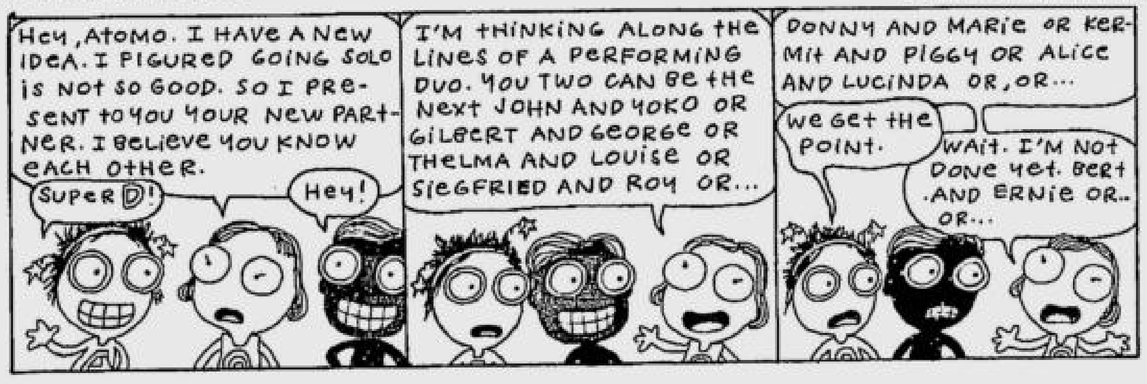
SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY


OKAY CLASS, IT LOOKS LIKE YOUR REGULAR TEACHER WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF A HISTORY LESSON WHEN HE GOT... UM... SICK.
Mr. Sherm
WHAT DID COLUMBUS DISCOVER IN 1492? ANYONE? ANYONE?
LEAH?
THE BACKSTREET BOYS.
UMM... I'LL TAKE YOUR WORD FOR IT.
http://www.slagoon.com

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


OKAY, LET'S JUST THINK THIS THROUGH.
WANDA AND YOLANDA ARE IN LABOR.
RIGHT.
SO NEITHER OF US HAS ANYBODY TO WATCH OUR KIDS WHILE WE GO TO THE HOSPITAL.
RIGHT.
THEN WE HAVE TO GO TO PLAN "B"!
RIGHT! PLAN "B"!
WHY DIDN'T ANYBODY EVER TELL ME I WAS PLAN "B"??

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Hey, Atomo. I have a new idea. I figured going solo is not so good. So I present to you your new partner. I believe you know each other.
Super D!
Hey!
I'm thinking along the lines of a performing duo. You two can be the next John and Yoko or Gilbert and George or Thelma and Louise or Siegfried and Roy or...
Donny and Marie or Kermit and Piggy or Alice and Lucinda or, or...
We get the point.
Wait. I'm not done yet. Bert and Ernie or.. or...

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: John Lithgow, Jennifer Holliday, Divine, Omar Gooding

Happy Birthday: Your past challenges are over and it is time for you to move full-steam ahead. You have the potential to reach your goals. Your knowledge and intuitive nature will attract people who will appreciate what it is you are trying to achieve. The more you do that will benefit mankind, the better you will feel . Your numbers are 9, 13, 17, 22, 28, 35

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You're extremely intuitive today, which could get you in trouble if you are tactless. Pause before you speak. Put your efforts into your work and you will be able to get a lot accomplished.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A romantic infatuation from your past may surface. You can enhance your reputation by making contributions to worthwhile causes. Make sure the organizations are doing what they say they are.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You will have major blow-ups with someone you love if you don't back down. This is the time for some diplomacy. Exercise some tact today.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You need to get away with your mate. Both of you have made other things, rather than the relationship, a priority. Take whatever time you can to get to know each other again. You will find trips to be most encouraging .

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't argue with relatives who are conservative and out of touch. It is best to do your own thing without drawing attention to it. It's important for you to follow your dreams. A new relationship can be yours if you get out with friends.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You can ferret out secret information if you just listen to what others have to say. Your perception is extremely accurate and your diplomatic nature makes others feel easy.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You may not be seeing things clearly today. Don't be too sure that coworkers are on your side. Make sure others know what you have done.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Plans to make physical changes will lead to mental improvements as well. Your self-esteem can be raised to where it belongs. Good friends will be loyal and caring.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): If you want to make financial gains, look into property investments or picking up the rights to sell a household product. Use your ingenuity.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Pleasure trips will be most enjoyable if you take them with that special person in your life. Passion is inevitable and commitments can be made during the heat of the night.

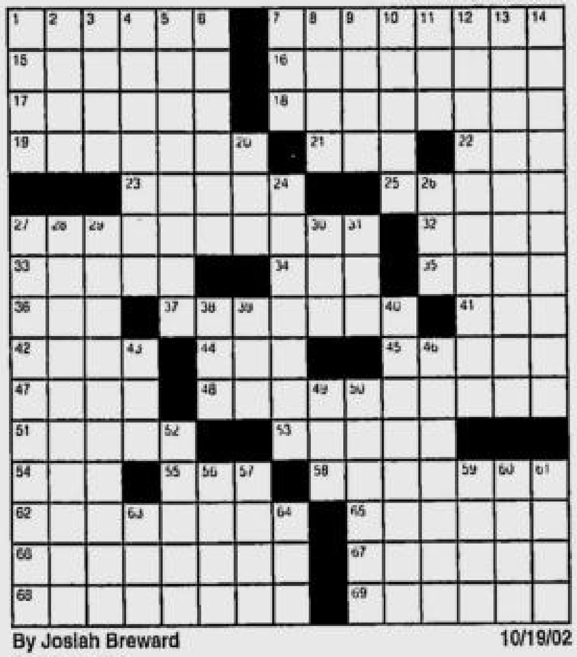
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Sudden changes regarding colleagues may surprise you. Take time to visit someone who has been confined due to illness. They will be very appreciative.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't be too eager to give a piece of your mind or even your opinion today. Others will not be very receptive to your ideas. You will not be well received at an emotional level.

Birthday Baby: You will be on a continuous search for knowledge and higher learning throughout your life and will gravitate toward those who can offer you vital information. You will be bright, curious, inventive and know exactly what you want.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Josiah Breward
Scranton, PA

10/19/02

ACROSS
1 Desires
7 Upper parts
15 Superlatively slippery
16 Bird keeper
17 Comfort
18 Of inferior social status
19 Lures into danger
21 Rebellion leader Turner
22 Classroom favorite
23 Parody
25 Keeps away from
27 Summer portal
32 Football great Graham
33 Hangman's knot
34 Massage
35 Farm wagon
36 Javelin's flight path
37 Place of exile
41 Scornful exclamation
42 Riles
44 Mineo of "Rebel Without a Cause"
45 Kind of lily
47 Sly glance
48 Most inclined to moralize
51 Catch of the day
53 Egg white
54 School grp.
55 Member of a fraternal order
58 Fused, as ores
62 Trans-Atlantic transportation
65 The __ Brothers
66 More seemly
67 Work experience summary
68 Trapper
69 Evaluate

DOWN
1 Sage
2 Windows image
3 Sediment
4 Coffin carriers
5 The ones that got away
6 Board
7 Small bit
8 Kiln
9 Type size
10 Mineral cathartics
11 Novelist Levin
12 Open to question
13 Requirements
14 Cowboy's topper
20 Turf piece
24 Front appendage
26 In what way?
27 Crawling progress
28 Adjustment
29 Pivoted levers
30 "__ Town"
31 Baseball stat.
38 AOL or Yahoo!
39 Saloon
40 Carries out with success
43 B'way theater sign
46 Like a vacuum
49 Gore and Smith
50 Pentax or Kodak
52 Reese of "Touched by an Angel"
56 Lion's den
57 Low joint
59 Factual
60 "Desire Under the __"
61 Woad and anil
63 Writing implement
64 Slip up

Friday's Puzzle Solved

O	R	I	B	I		S	T	R	U	M		A	S	H
C	A	N	E	A		N	O	T	S	O		O	W	E
A	F	R	A	M	E	I	B	E	A	M		N	A	E
L	E	E		B	C	D	E			E	M	E	N	D
A	R	M	O	I	R	E		C	A	N	S	O		
			S	C	U	R	V	E	U	T	U	R	N	S
M	A	U	L	S			E	D	N	A		I	I	I
A	M	B	O		M	A	N	E	T		A	N	N	A
N	E	O		M	E	N	U			A	N	G	E	L
X	R	A	T	E	D	T	S	H	I	R	T			
		T	E	A	S	E		A	G	A	I	N	S	T
W	A	X	E	N			P	R	O	P		A	T	E
A	I	R		D	D	A	Y	K	R	A	T	I	O	N
R	D	A		E	N	T	R	E		H	A	L	V	E
P	A	Y		R	A	V	E	N		O	N	S	E	T

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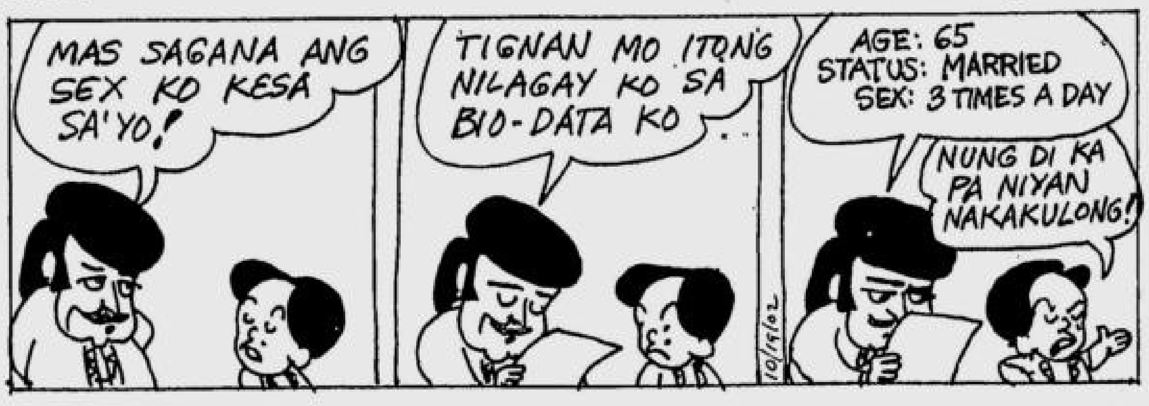
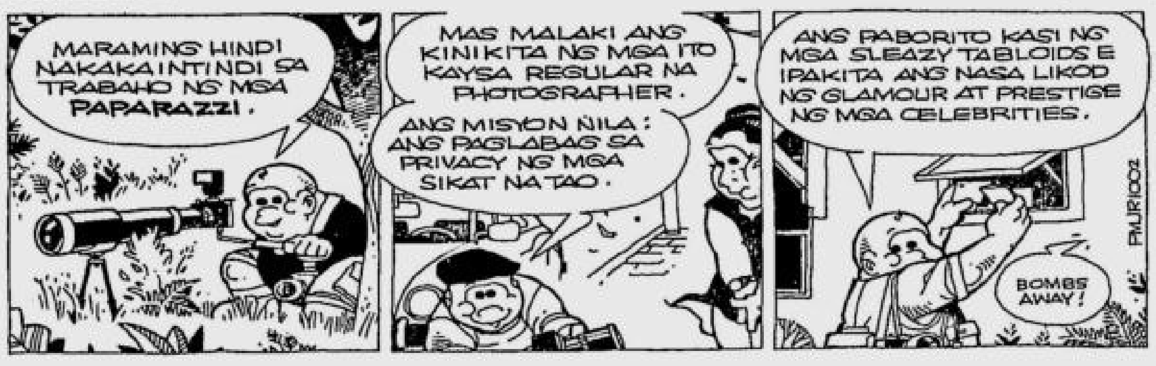
10/19/02

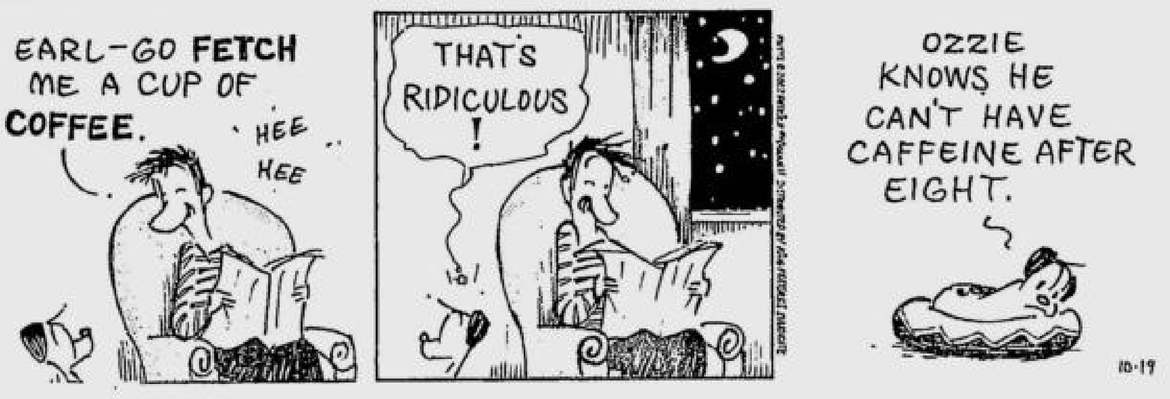
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


MAS SAGANA ANG SEX KO KESA SA'YO!
TIGNAN MO ITONG NILAGAY KO SA BIO-DATA KO
AGE: 65
STATUS: MARRIED
SEX: 3 TIMES A DAY
NUNG DI KA PA NIYAN NAKAKULONG!
10/19/02

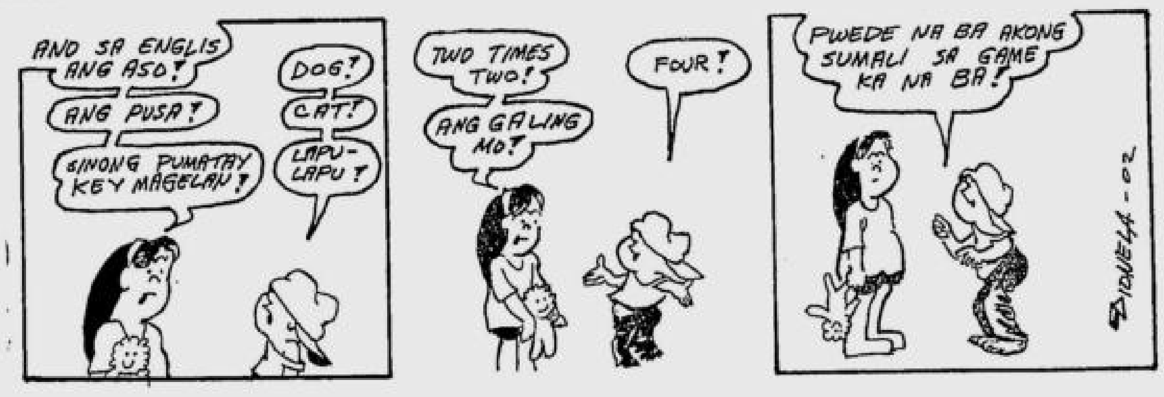
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


MARAMING HINDI NAKAKAINTINDI SA TRABAHO NG MGA PAPARAZZI.
MAS MALAKI ANG KINIKITA NG MGA ITO KAYSA REGULAR NA PHOTOGRAPHER.
ANG MISYON NILA: ANG PAGLABAG SA PRIVACY NG MGA SIKAT NA TAO.
ANG PABORITO KASI NG MGA SLEAZY TABLOIDS E IPAKITA ANG NASA LIKOD NG GLAMOUR AT PRESTIGE NG MGA CELEBRITIES.
BOMBS AWAY!
PMJR1002

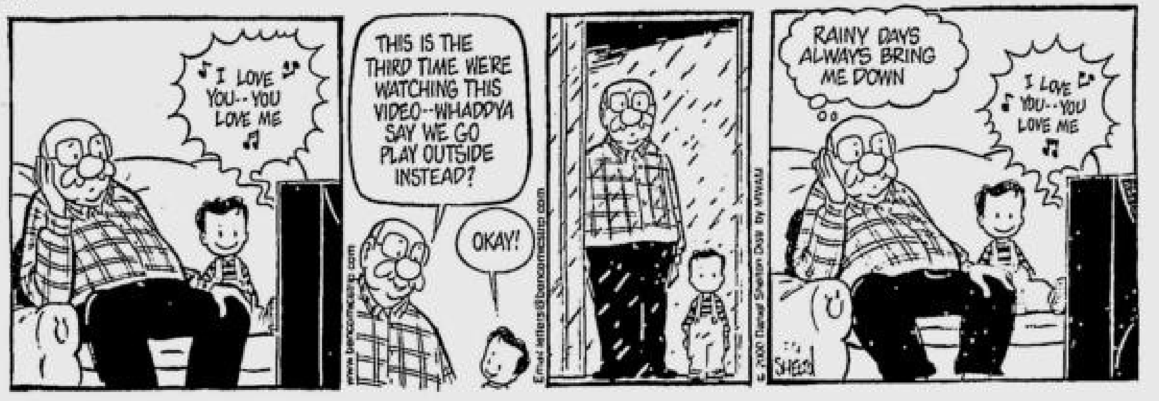
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


EARL—GO FETCH ME A CUP OF COFFEE.
HEE HEE
THAT'S RIDICULOUS !
OZZIE KNOWS HE CAN'T HAVE CAFFEINE AFTER EIGHT.
10-19

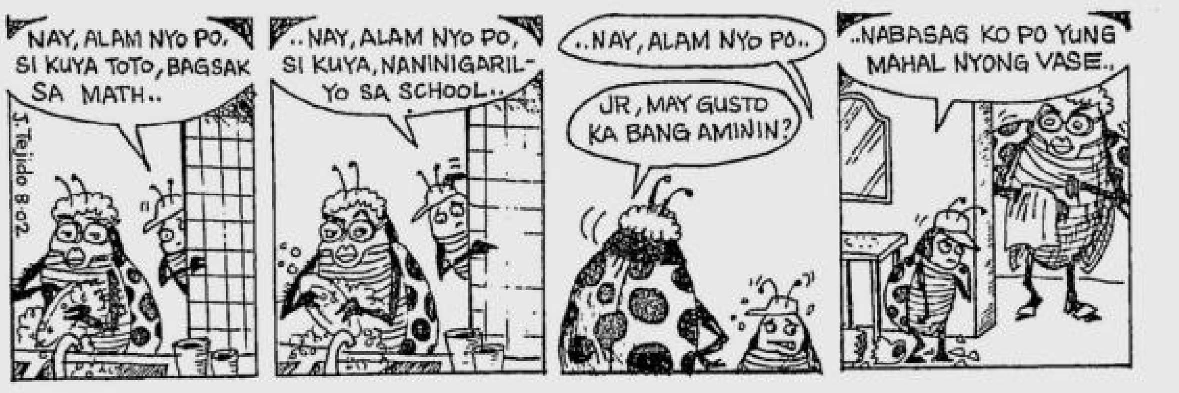
SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA


AND SA ENGLIS ANG ASO?
DOG?
ANG PUSA?
CAT?
SINONG PUMATAY KEY MAGELAN?
LAPU-LAPU?
TWO TIMES TWO!
FOUR!
ANG GALING MO?
PWEDE NA BA AKONG SUMALI SA GAME KA NA BA?
DIONELA-02

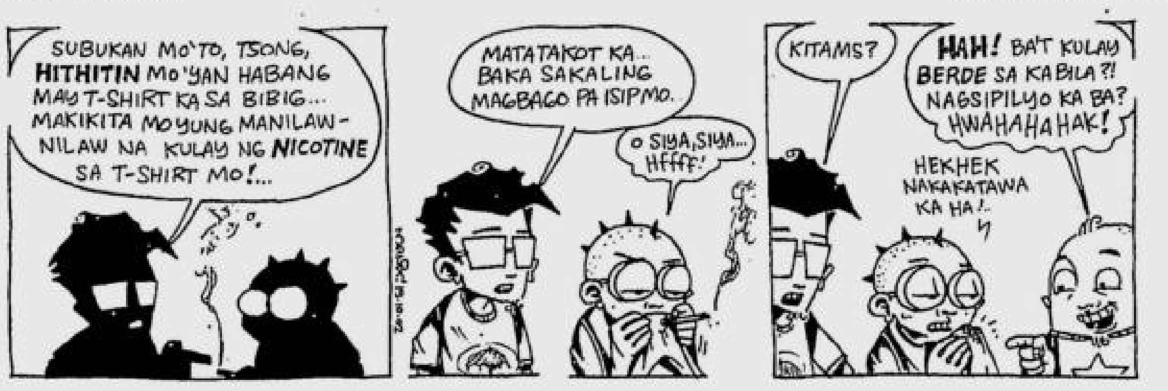
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


I LOVE YOU--YOU LOVE ME
THIS IS THE THIRD TIME WE'RE WATCHING THIS VIDEO--WHADDYA SAY WE GO PLAY OUTSIDE INSTEAD?
OKAY!
RAINY DAYS ALWAYS BRING ME DOWN
I LOVE YOU--YOU LOVE ME

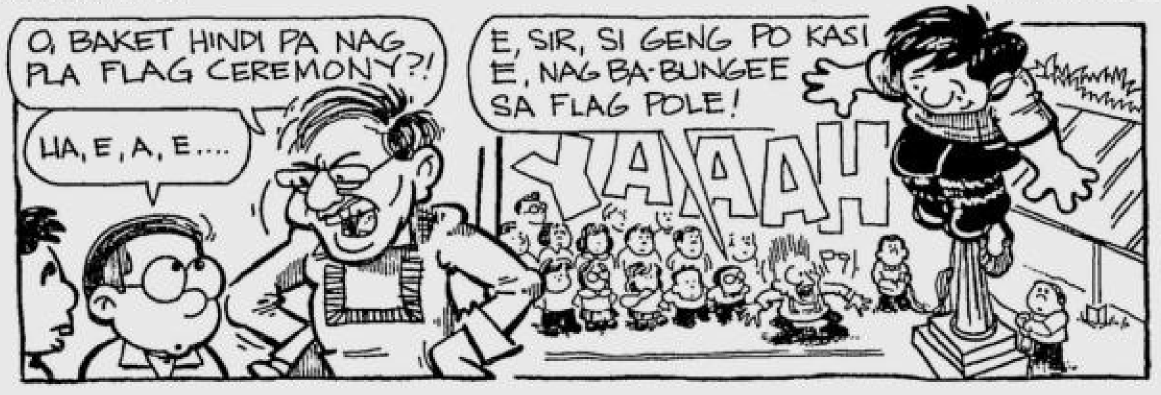
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


NAY, ALAM NYO PO, SI KUYA TOTO, BAGSAK SA MATH..
J. Tejido 8-02
..NAY, ALAM NYO PO, SI KUYA, NANINIGARILYO SA SCHOOL..
..NAY, ALAM NYO PO..
JR, MAY GUSTO KA BANG AMININ?
..NABASAG KO PO YUNG MAHAL NYONG VASE..

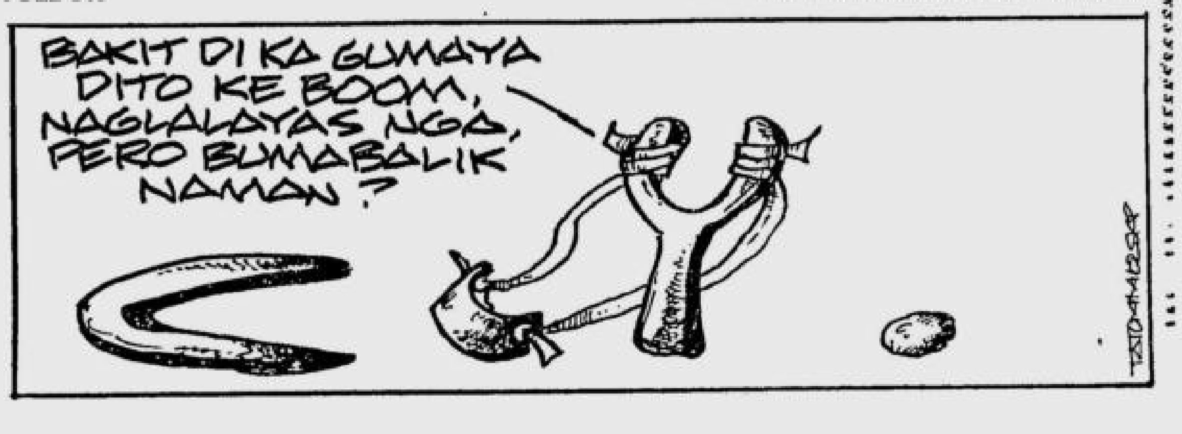
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


SUBUKAN MO'TO, TSONG, HITHITIN MO'YAN HABANG MAY T-SHIRT KA SA BIBIG... MAKIKITA MO YUNG MANILAW-NILAW NA KULAY NG NICOTINE SA T-SHIRT MO!...
MATATAKOT KA.. BAKA SAKALING MAGBAGO PA ISIP MO.
O SIYA, SIYA... HFFFF!
KITAMS?
HAH! BA'T KULAY BERDE SA KABILA?! NAGSIPILYO KA BA? HWAHAHAHAK!
HEKHEK NAKAKATAWA KA HA!

GENG'S GAMES BY AMIEL RUFO


O, BAKET HINDI PA NAG PLA FLAG CEREMONY?!
HA, E, A, E....
E, SIR, SI GENG PO KASI E, NAG BA-BUNGEE SA FLAG POLE!
YAAAH

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


BAKIT DI KA GUMAYA DITO KE BOOM, NAGLALAYAS NGA, PERO BUMABALIK NAMAN?

Ritchie's 'Swept Away' fails to fulfill its promise

By Christy Lemire

NEW YORK—"Swept Away" is every bit the cinematic shipwreck you'd imagine it would be.

But you can't blame it all on Madonna, even though this is her most wooden, self-conscious performance since "Shanghai Surprise." (Really, though, how do you choose just one?)

Previous films

And you can't blame it all on her husband, writer-director Guy Ritchie, even though this completely lacks the imagination and spark of his two previous films, "Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels" and "Snatch."

You can, however, blame them as a collaborative unit.

With the two of them working together, there apparently was no system of checks and balances. It's as if no one sat with them and watched the dailies and said, "Well, that's not very good, now, is it?"

You also can blame them for their choice of source material.

"Swept Away" is an extremely faithful remake of a 1974 Italian film of the same name, about a spoiled socialite named Raffaella who goes on a Mediterranean cruise and becomes stranded on a deserted island with Gennarino, a sailor she'd tormented on board. He beats her into submission, their roles reverse, and they fall in desperate, passionate love, only to have reality rip them apart once they're rescued.

Three decades later

None of this translates well nearly three decades later. Lines plucked directly from the original—such as "Your loins will burn with desire"—are laugh-out-loud funny when spoken, but were merely romance-novel cheesy in subtitled English.

And while the violence is toned down from the original (in which Gennarino tells Raffaella, "You're more beautiful when I hit you") Madonna's character, now named Amber, still takes a few smacks across the face from the brutish sailor, now named Giuseppe (Adriano Giannini, son of Giancarlo Giannini, who starred in the original). What poses as a device for building sexual tension merely feels misogynistic, unwarranted, out of date.

They bicker and call each other names. They fight over tiny pieces of fish and wrestle furiously in the sand. Eventually she forgets about her wealthy husband (Bruce Greenwood, who maintains some semblance of dignity, if only because his screen time is so limited). But the stranded couple are so annoying, so over-the-top in their anger toward each other, who cares if they fall in love?

Can't we just vote them off the island and be done with them?

Vestiges

When you strip away the vestiges of plot and character development, "Swept Away" is simply an excuse for Madonna to show off her tanned, yoga-trimmed body on the beach. (She even wears the same black bikini Mariangela Melato wore in the original.) And you have to give her credit—at 44, she's an amazing physical specimen, though her perpetual sneer makes it nearly impossible to look at her for prolonged periods of time.

Ritchie cut the film from two hours to about 90 minutes, yet he still eats up time with montages that feel like filler.

One of them is a dream sequence in which Amber dances and lip-syncs to Rosemary Clooney's "Come on-a My House," while magically whipping out items mentioned in the lyrics (an apple, a plum, a Christmas tree).

"Swept Away," a Screen Gems release, runs 93 minutes. One star out of four. *AP*

MADONNA (right) and Italian actor Adriano Giannini in "Swept Away," which was shot in Sardinia.

AFP

'Below' adds supernatural twist to sub movie storytelling

By Anthony Breznican

LOS ANGELES—From "Das Boot" to last summer's "K-19: The Widowmaker," fans of submarine movies have come to expect claustrophobic madness from the crew, creaking hulls popping leaks, and a few desperate, hushed moments while an enemy ship patrols overhead.

Ghosts

The World War II era thriller "Below" has a lot of the same elements, but adds a supernatural twist: the rattles and clanks may come from ghosts.

Fans of traditional military adventures may find the spookiness hokey, but horror aficionados will likely enjoy the film's murky mysteries.

Bruce Greenwood (who played JFK in "13 Days") delivers a strong performance as a square-jawed skipper ordered to rescue a handful of survivors from a sunken British medical cruiser. Among the rescued are two men and a woman (Olivia Williams of "The Sixth Sense"), which causes a stir among the crew of lonely men.

Director David Twohy, who made the 2000 Vin Diesel movie "Pitch Black," creates gloomy atmosphere out of the cramped setting with long tracking shots that follow characters down the sub's tangled passageways.

Risky journey

The dim lighting of the control deck enhances the sense of secrecy and distrust among the ship's officers, and smooth special-effects recreate a risky journey by divers to the stalled submarine's outer hull.

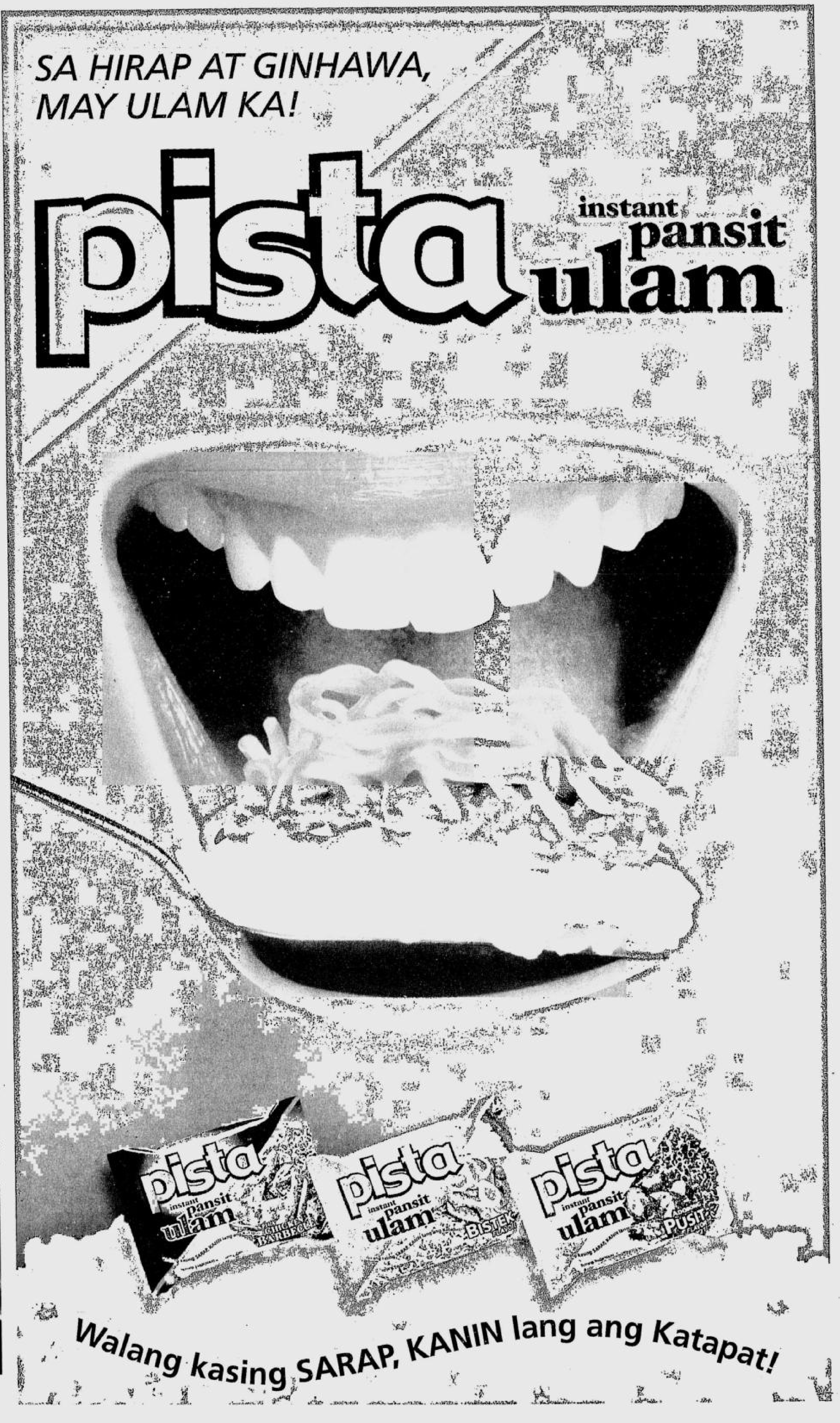
Chilling moments benefit from subtlety. When a crew member studies his face in the mirror, the tense music suggests something ready to jump out. Instead we begin to notice that the reflection's movements are slightly off from his.

Twohy, who co-wrote the script with "Requiem for a Dream" filmmaker Darren Aronofsky and writer Lucas Sussman, bogs the story down by having the characters explain what's happening—long after the plot developments are obvious—instead of saving their own lives.

No wonder the sub was groaning.

"Below," a Dimension Films release, runs 104 minutes. Two and a half stars (out of four). *AP*

MATT Davis and Jason Flemyng in David Twohy's film.


SA HIRAP AT GINHAWA, MAY ULAM KA!
pista
instant pansit ulam
pista instant pansit ulam CHICKEN BARBECUE
pista instant pansit ulam BISTEK
pista instant pansit ulam PUSIT
Walang kasing SARAP, KANIN lang ang Katapat!

Christopher Lee had fun playing the villain in Bond film

By Paul Majendie

LONDON—Forget Dracula and Star Wars.

When it comes to fun, nothing beats playing the villain in a James Bond movie.

Golden gun

Lovingly wielding his golden gun once more at a Bond exhibition in London, 80-year-old actor Christopher Lee told Reuters on Tuesday: "It was a joy to play—Great fun." "A Bond film is a game, a very enjoyable game," he said of his 1974 role as the arch baddie Francisco Scaramanga in "The Man With the Golden Gun."

Lee, who has since gained a new generation of movie fans with his roles in "Star Wars" and "Lord of the Rings," posed with gun in hand alongside Honor Blackman, who so memorably played Pussy Galore in "Goldfinger." Lee, who rose to blood-sucking movie fame as Dracula and boasts more than 250 films to his credit, has nothing but fond memories of his Bond movie, but said its cloak-and-dagger hero would never survive five minutes as a real spy.

"The Bond film was actually rather unlike any other film I had been associated with because it was enormous fun and no expense was spared," he said at the exhibition in London's Science Museum.

Air of menace

And Lee, a tall, striking figure who still carries an unmistakable air of menace, has fond family connections with the legendary spy saga.

"I am very interested naturally in Bond not just because I play the title role in one of the movies but because Ian Fleming was my cousin," he said of the spy's creator.

Lee has nothing but fond memories of his Bond movie, but says its cloak-and-dagger hero would never survive five minutes as a real spy

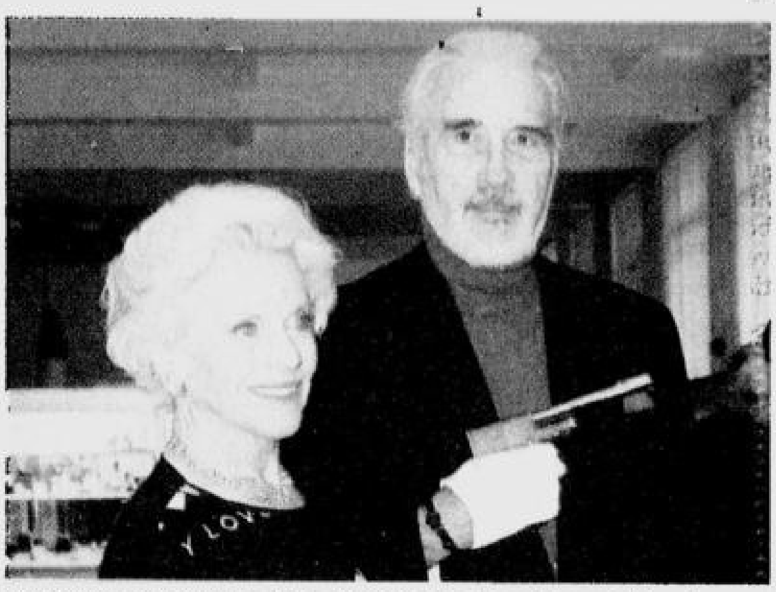
"I probably know more about James Bond, how he came into existence, and what Ian's idea of him was than anybody alive. We used to discuss it frequently on the golf course."

From Sean Connery to Pierce Brosnan, the movie Bond has always been a suave and sophisticated ladykiller surrounded by gadgets, guns and gorgeous girls.

Lee argues that Fleming's creation would never survive in the shady world of espionage.

"He created this character who in real life as a secret agent would last about three minutes because of the high profile of his clothes, his cars, his appearance, his women and his gimmicks," he said.

"The man was over six feet tall and very goodlooking. You could imagine it would be totally impossible for him to become inconspicuous and blend into the background." *Reuters*



FORMER Bond girl Honor Blackman, who played Pussy Galore in "Goldfinger," with Christopher Lee, who played Scaramanga in "The Man with the Golden Gun," at the "Bond, James Bond" exhibition at the Science Museum in London. AFP

'Dallas' to hit the big screen next year

LOS ANGELES—The 1980s US television soap "Dallas," which became a hit in households across the world, is soon to hit the big screen, more than two decades after it first aired, industry sources said Thursday.

Millionaires

Regency Enterprises was preparing to make a feature film of the series next year chronicling the fabulously privileged but turbulent lives of a family of Texas oil millionaires, according to the entertainment industry's daily bible, Variety.

The show's original creator David Jacobs has signed on to produce the picture and is intent on allowing the film to retain the spirit of the original "Dallas," although actors, storylines and themes will change.

"I like the idea of doing it for the 21st century, with a new cast," Jacobs told Variety.

"We've got a new take on it. It's a much bigger canvas today and it belongs up on the big screen. Before, people would have been interested in who is romancing whom. Now it's the national crimes that are affecting everyone.

THE REMARRIAGE of JR (Larry Hagman) and Sue Ellen (Linda Gray) on the "Dallas" TV series.

Family conflicts

"The story is still about family conflicts, but the stakes are higher now. That's the thing that excites me about it," he said.

"Dallas," which was syndicated across the globe, ran from 1978 to 1992 and starred Larry Hagman as the evil heir to the family empire, J.R. Ewing, Patrick Duffy as his brother Bobby and Victoria Principal as his wife Pamela.

The show was ranked either first or second in the all-important US television ratings for five consecutive years in the early 1980s and still rakes in $1.3 billion in syndication revenues.

The show's famous "Who Shot J.R.?" episode garnered one of the highest ratings for a series in television. *AFP*

Update on Tracy Chapman as recording artist

By David Bauder

NEW YORK—The impish image of Tracy Chapman on the cover of her new CD tells no secrets.

Flecks of gray

It's only in meeting her face-to-face, where the flecks of gray in her dreadlocks are visible, that it hit you that it's been 14 years since Chapman's attention-grabbing debut.

On the strengths of songs like "Fast Car" and "Talking 'Bout a Revolution," Chapman had an instant hit album—a rare feat, then and now, for the introspective songwriting that dominates her work.

"There are aspects to having that kind of success that can be difficult to manage," she said. "I didn't really have a handle on it early on. It came rather quickly and I had no experience and I was pretty overwhelmed by it."

A few months ago, Chapman was moving boxes in her home when she came across magazine articles and tour memorabilia from those days that she had tossed aside.

Attention

The attention hadn't really registered then. "Now I see why my friends wouldn't go to a movie with me," she said. "They didn't want to deal with the hysteria."

The commercial success, duplicated with the 1996 hit "Give Me One Reason," has benefits beyond the obvious financial ones.

"Having a record that does so well gave me the freedom that I feel I exercise now in making music that I like, that I might not otherwise be able to make, at least not with a record company like this," said Chapman, 38.

Her latest disc, "Let it Rain," was released this week on Elektra Records. It is exactly what one would expect from a Tracy Chapman album—mostly quiet, sincere, nontrendy ruminations on love and relationships.

There's no overriding theme, although Chapman jokes that with the songs like "Let it Rain" and "Another Sun," plus a lyrical reference to "the wind on my face," she should promote her music on The Weather Channel.

The subdued music and a cut like "Happy," where the narrator is anything but, won't do anything to change a dour image. But there is variety: the single, "You're the One," is a playful take on the common theme of falling in love with someone your friends say is no good for you.

"I'm never really sure when I start working on a song where it comes from, why I'm writing about it at that particular time," she said. "The ideas and the feelings kind of flow through. I'm never sure if the next song is going to be a song about love or a song about a tree."

Requirement

Chapman recorded the album this summer in San Francisco, where she lives, and co-produced it with John Parish. His resumé, working with P.J. Harvey, the Eels and Sparklehorse, wouldn't suggest a natural fit, but they hit it off and he met Chapman's requirement for this disc: she wanted to work as a team with someone who was also a musician.

A full band is used on most songs but is muted. The emphasis, as usual, is on Chapman's voice.

"There is an intimacy that makes it kind of quiet-seeming," she said. "That was something I wanted. It seems like (the songs) wanted to be recorded in such a way so it could feel like you were in the room at the time."

Though friendly and quick with a laugh, Chapman actually seems quite shy. And aside from the city where she lives, her fans don't know much about Chapman besides her songs.

Yes, that's by design.

"I have a public life that's my work life and I have my personal life," she said. "In some ways, the decision to keep the two things separate relates to the work I do. *AP*

Bill O'Reilly, TV host some viewers love to hate

By Mona S. Gonzalez

THERE are days when you can only take so much of Bill O'Reilly, news commentator and host of "The O'Reilly Factor" on the Fox News Channel, who seems to be on the air everyday, morning and evening. And there are other days when you simply don't want to have any of him at all.

Popular

But he must be rather popular, at least in the States. Why else would they give him so much airtime? And why would even Pepsi, the softdrink giant, kowtow to him?

Who is O'Reilly, anyway? It amazed me that one day, he ranted and raved against Pepsi for hiring Ludicrus, a rap singer who in his music espoused violence and abuse.

The next day, Ludicrus was pulled out by Pepsi, after 3,000 televiewers called to complain after watching "The O'Reilly Factor." Wow, O'Reilly's sure got his audience in his hands. Talk about clout!

O'Reilly comes on strong. "This is a no-spin zone" he likes to say, by way of explaining why he can browbeat his guests by way of forwarding his argument. He is blunt, asks pointed questions, and sometimes, you feel the guest is fundamentally a prop by which he can forward his opinion.

Defensive

He can make a panelist feel defensive, uncomfortable. And he feels very righteous in doing it. You sometimes wonder, is "no spin" a euphemism for being rude?

True, O'Reilly can really defend his point and has a knack for tearing down another person's argument (which, upfront sounds so rational) to tiny little pieces of shrapnel that are then dispersed in little particles to the winds.

O'Reilly comes on so strong that you feel bothered when you find yourself agreeing with him. Take for example the time he made one panelist feel deeply uncomfortable for espousing alternative marriages. I was so taken aback by the way he pulled her arguments apart that I lost track of the details of what they were discussing in the first place!

"America is safe again, O'Reilly is back!," one colleague said humorously by way of introducing O'Reilly, who was back on the air after a vacation. O'Reilly did not appear to be amused. Come to think of it, while I have often seen him smile (especially when he gets someone mad, or in his own version of looking "ingenuous" after having smashed someone verbally), I have yet to hear him tell a joke. The phrase, "lighten up," albeit now passé, may have been coined just for him.

Orgy

O'Reilly then proceeded to pull apart a guest who was defending a "private party" which became orgy, that was held in a public place, and advertised on the internet. Guests paid $25 to go.

Boy, did O'Reilly give him a spanking! Perhaps his major role in America's life is to give vent to the rage many conservatives feel about so many things.

There are times, however, when you can practically analyze his tonal blueprint. He'll start out on a low, slow mode, "undulating" the topic of discussion, introducing the guest, asking opening questions until the guest forwards his case. Then, blam! Tone rises one octave higher, argument sputters relentlessly, higher octave maintained, and highest note hit once O'Reilly's point is made. Panelist sufficiently smashed, O'Reilly reassures his normal voice tone, end show.

Another time, we saw O'Reilly feature a man named "Sandy" who dressed and looked like a woman, and who was expelled from beauty school because of it. Sandy came with his lawyer who spoke most articulately, while Sandy obviously had language problems. What did O'Reilly say? "Let Sandy answer the question," whenever the lawyer would respond to his queries.

Fan mail

O'Reilly gets lots of fan mail. He also gets a lot of critiques that cuss him in a manner pretty much like his own. This is how O'Reilly does it: When the letter praises him, he agrees. When the letter is critical, he doesn't respond, but immediately follows it up by reading a letter from an appreciative fan.

It is distressing to share viewpoints with O'Reilly, but while he may in some ways be disturbing, he is not boring. More than anything else, although oftentimes I may agree with him, I dislike his demeanor.

If I were 17, I'd probably be enthralled with O'Reilly in the same way that I was once so sold on Ayn Rand. Eventually, you outgrow both. True, the guy has passion, so maybe for less passionate souls, he is something to watch.

And yet, you wonder if the challenge should be to discuss, to agree to disagree, to separate opinion from the person, to be polite and respectful, always. But that moment of sobriety passes, and as O'Reilly rants on and on, you watch him, open-mouthed.

Here's some advice. He is best stomached if you are exercising on an air walker while watching him. Slip remote into your pocket and when O'Reilly gets particularly mean-switch channels: Blam!

MICHAEL Caine and Van Heflin are only two of the American stars who have shot movies here.

More Hollywood films made in the . . .

From page E3

membered for his impressive performance in "Alfie." Co-star Cliff Robertson did a Rita Moreno during his assignment here: He left the shoot to fly to Hollywood to receive the Best Actor statuette for "Charly" in 1969.

Francis Ford Coppola, acclaimed as Hollywood's new Orson Welles because of the unprecedented critical and commercial success of "Godfather I and II," ventured to make an epic film here in 1977. It headlined no less than Hollywood dramatic titan Marlon Brando co-starring with the likes of Martin Sheen, Dennis Hopper and Robert Duval.

Indios Bravos habitue Gigi Duefias portrayed Brando's native wife. It is said Brando thought Elizabeth Oropesa, who had already shot for the part, was too beautiful for the role. He was actually right. However, "Apocalypse Now" met many production problems including Brando's tantrums, monsoon rains, and typhoons that wrecked the expensive sets. The final product was visually captivating but difficult to comprehend. The new and longer version recently released is supposed to be an improvement.

Anti-war movie

In 1988, Hollywood renegade Oliver Stone came to shoot "Platoon" in the Laguna area, starring Charlie Sheen, Tom Berenguer and Willem DaFoe. The critically acclaimed film was patently anti-war, but mesmerized viewers all over the world with poetically graphic shots of man's cruelty to man, as well as the barbarity of war.

Stone, a Vietnam War veteran, then followed up with "Born on the Fourth of July," which starred no less than Tom Cruise. The character he plays suffers post-war trauma. The youthful veteran is not only physically maimed, but also emotionally damaged and psychologically confused by the seeming lack of significance of his sacrifice to the collective American consciousness. Why then did he and many other veterans go through living hell?

Not too long ago, "Noriega" was shot here, since the Philippine terrain can pass for Nicaragua and many Spanish *mestizo* actors like Michael de Mesa, Rez Cortez and Rosemarie Gil can portray natives of that war-torn Central American nation.

Companion

James Shigeta, Nancy Kwan, Tom Drake (a former co-star of Hollywood coloratura Deanna Durbin), Rod Steiger, Michael York, David Hasselhoff and James Brolin (*aka* husband of entertainment icon Barbara Streisand) have all shot films here. However, they no longer drew the attention Tyrone Power enjoyed when he conquered the Philippines in 1950.

German, Japanese and French companies attracted by our great sun, choice locales, trained actors and technicians have likewise come to shoot films here. American director Sam Fuller who directed Jeff Chandler in "Merrill's Marauders" came back in 1987 to star in "China Sea," a French production on the plight of Vietnamese boat people directed by Jacques Perrin of "Cinema Paradiso" fame.

Fuller returned two years later to direct Jennifer Beals of "Flashdance" renown in still another French production, "The Madonna and the Dragon." I acted in both Fuller projects.

A major film on the Japanese Occupation of the Philippines starring Benjamin Bratt, Ralph Fiennes, James Franco and our own Cesar Montano is currently being shot in Australia. Its producers were frightened away from the Philippines by the spate of kidnapping cases, as well as the well-publicized dangers of the Abu Sayaf and possible terrorist groups. It is reportedly a $50 million production. Imagine therefore the disappointment of local actors and film technicians who could have benefited from that huge budget, had the movie been filmed here.

Attitude

Fortunately, there is now talk that Brad Pitt is scheduled to shoot a film here in the near future. Who knows, this well-financed project might later change the attitude of cautious foreign producers, especially if the peace and order situation improves. This Brad Pitt headliner may rekindle the interest of foreign producers in the Philippines as a desirable location because they can exploit the many benefits the Philippines has to offer.

It may well herald the start of still another Hollywood invasion reminiscent of those wonderful years when the Philippines became a prime foreign location in Asia.

Besides, who knows, their stars might continue the "tradition" started by Rita Moreno and Cliff Robertson, and win Academy Awards while shooting a movie here. Also, "Platoon" collected four awards, "Born On The Fourth of July" won two coveted trophies, and Stone himself was adjudged Best Director for those two "Made in the Philippines" films.

Hey, that could be a come-on to Hollywood producers and stars: "Shoot a film in the Philippines and win an Academy Award!" And, psst, also star a local actor. He might become president of the country someday!

New book sees Christian imagery in Harry Potter

By Nigel Hunt

LOS ANGELES—Harry Potter may carry a wand, ride a broomstick and count a werewolf among his friends, but a new book claims the boy wizard's adventures are really full of Christian imagery and morals.

Starting point

"I could run a weekly bible study using Harry Potter as a starting point. It is a gold mine of biblical truth if you look at it that way," Connie Neal, author of "The Gospel According to Harry Potter," told Reuters.

J.K. Rowling's best-selling books have stirred up considerable controversy among Christians, with critics fearing that children may seek to emulate some of the occult practices depicted.

"Poor Harry I think got a bad rap at the beginning," said Neal, noting her book includes 52 of 80 incidents, which she called "glimmers of the Gospel," in the Potter stories. "I was surprised there were so many. Some were very blatant."

Neal's favorites include the death of Harry's mother. The Dark Lord Voldemort threw the curse of death at Harry but his mother loved him so much that she threw himself in front of the curse and saved him at the cost of her own life. Her sacrifice mysteriously broke Voldemort's power.

Symbol

Neal noted that during a recent conversation, a teenager with a pierced nose had commented to her; "Hey, isn't that a bit like what Jesus did on the cross?" Harry also prays in two places, celebrates Christmas and Easter and belongs to a house, Gryffindor, whose symbol is a lion and whose most bitter opponent, Slytherin, is represented by a snake. Jesus is sometimes described as "The Lion of Judah," while Satan is often depicted as a serpent or snake.

"Satan is never mentioned in Harry Potter but I've not found a better literary representation of evil than in Voldemort," Neal said.

Neal's book, published last month by Westminster John Knox Press, the publisher of the highly successful "The Gospel According to Peanuts," has not been well received by Harry Potter critics within the Christian community.

"Connie Neal is well meaning but she really doesn't know what she is talking about," said Richard Abanes, author of "Harry Potter and the Bible—the Menace behind the Magick." "Kids are curious and when they are either watching the (Harry Potter) movie or reading the books they become curious about witches and spells, not Christianity. There is no Gospel according to Harry Potter," Abanes said.

Fantasy literature

Abanes said that while witches and magic are used in fantasy literature such as C.S. Lewis' "Chronicles of Narnia" or J.R.R. Tolkien's "Lord of the Rings," those works take place in a different world with different rules.

"Harry Potter takes place in the here and now in England, using references to existing occult practices," he said.

"If you are reading certain fantasy literature that has magic of a kind that you can go to the library and look it up, then it might be a problem. If they can't it is no problem at all," Abanes said.

He also said virtually all the good characters lie, cheat, steal and go against authority. One of the book's heroes, Harry's friend Hagrid, is frequently drunk.

Neal said she was also concerned about the dangers of children becoming interested in the occult, noting it was important for parents to discuss that with their children before reading them the books.

"Our world is full of lots of dark spiritual pursuits. If you believe the Bible you have to believe they are real and dangerous," she said.

Abanes, however, remains unconvinced.

"Kids are kids," he said. "You can give them all the warnings you want about eating too much candy but leave a kid in a candy store, tell them they can eat one piece a day and they are not going to listen to you." *Reuters*

DANIEL Radcliffe plays Harry Potter in the books' film versions.

J.K. Rowling's best-selling books have stirred up considerable controversy among Christians, with critics fearing that children may seek to emulate some of the occult practices depicted

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'Bowling for Columbine' wins People's Choice Award

VANCOUVER, Canada—American filmmaker Michael Moore's "Bowling for Columbine," a movie that plumbs the depths of violence in America, shared the People's Choice Award at Vancouver's International Film Festival with films by two Canadian,s Deborah Day's comedy, "Expecting," and Nettie Wild's "Fix."

Security camera tapes

In "Bowling for Columbine," Moore searches from Columbine High School security camera tapes to the home of ex-actor and National Rifle Association president Charlton Heston, from the "Anarchist's Cookbook" recipe for home-made napalm to the murder of a six-year-old girl by another six-year-old.

The film takes a sometimes humorous, often horrifying look at America's love affair with firearms and leaves the audience with a sense of expectation of the next breaking news of a homegrown assassin with a constitutionally protected gun.

"Expecting" focuses on a 24-hour "labor party" in which eight diverse personalities are hastily brought together to witness and participate in an unanticipated home birth.

Personality mix

Stephanie, the free-living expectant single mother, experiences premature labor pains after a marathon sex session and phones friends and family to rush to comfort her in her downtown loft, forming a personality mix whose players are forced to re-examine their own lives.

"Fix" is a dark 92-minute documentary telling, over a two-year period, the story of a man and of a city (Vancouver) fighting drugs and addiction.

In the Asian film section of the festival, dubbed "Tigers and Dragons," awards went to Chinese filmmaker Andrew Cheng's "Shanghai Panic," a portrait of a lost generation, and to South Korean Lee Chang-Dong's "Oasis," which won in the human rights category. *AFP*

Jackie Chan receives star on Hollywood Walk of Fame

LOS ANGELES—Actor Jackie Chan recently received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, close to the entrance to the theater where the Academy Awards are presented.

"I remember coming to Hollywood and seeing the stars and I wanted one," Chan said. "To show my appreciation I will make better films."

Asia's biggest movie box office star for more than 20 years, Chan was asked what's next in his career and he said: "The Oscar."

Chan's film "The Tuxedo" opened two weekends ago at No. 2 in North American theaters with receipts of $15.1 million.

New home

Chan, 48, has star No. 2,205 on the Walk of Fame, only about 25 feet from the entrance to the Kodak Theater. The theater became the new home for the Oscar presentations last spring.

The star was a fitting tribute for the star from Hong Kong, whose martial-arts expertise is combined with physical comedy in his films, said Brett Ratner, who directed Chan in the films "Rush Hour" and "Rush Hour 2."

"He idolized Charlie Chaplin, Harold Lloyd and Buster Keaton and it's perfect he's on Hollywood blvd. sharing his star with these people," Ratner said. *AP*

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Buong-buo at di
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SIKSIK SA SUSTANSYA.
Punung-puno
ng protina.

SIKSIK SA SARAP.
Gustung-gusto ng
aking pamilya."

Pakyaw Na!
MANNY PACQUIAO
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PUREFOODS
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Superior
SERVING SUGGESTION
PUREFOODS HORMEL
PUREFOODS HORMEL
The Purefoods-Hormel Company

NOKIA
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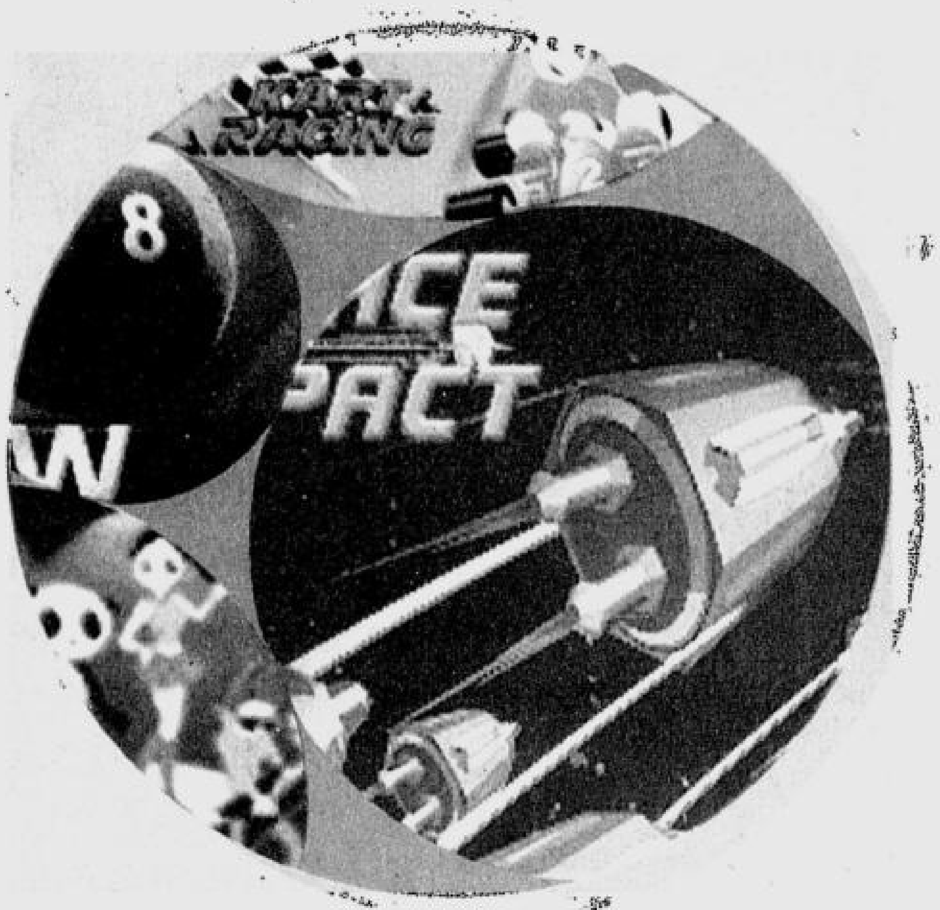
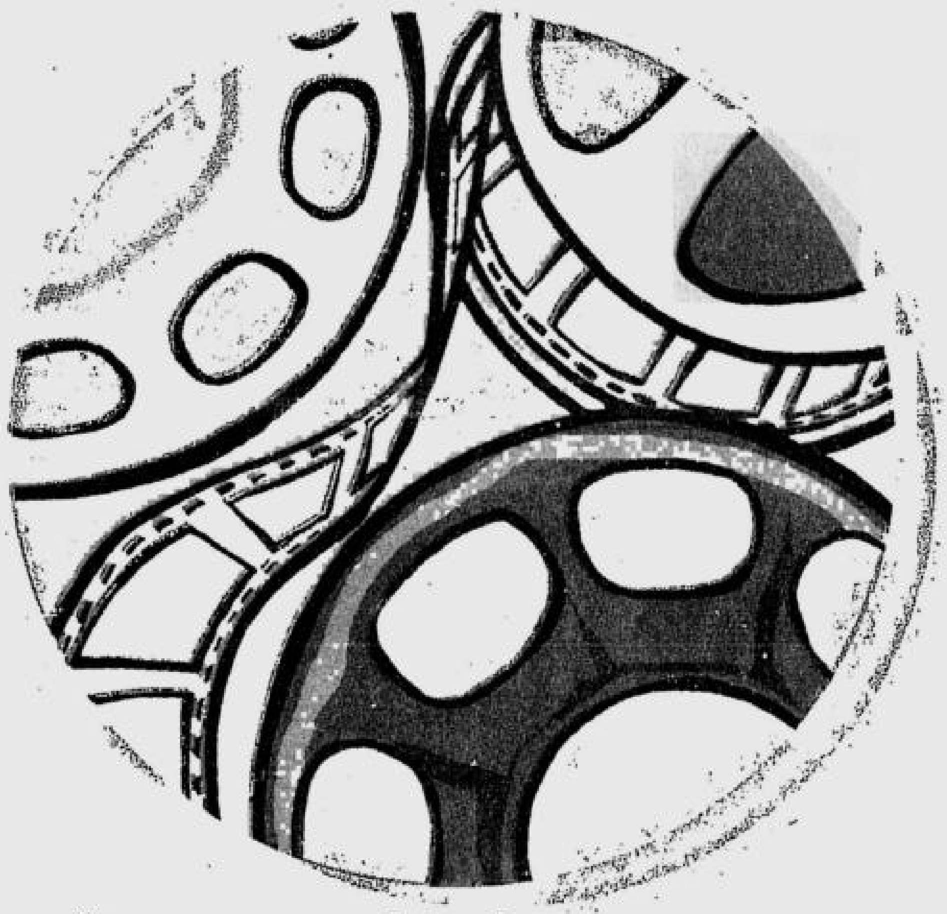
POPEYE
BOOP

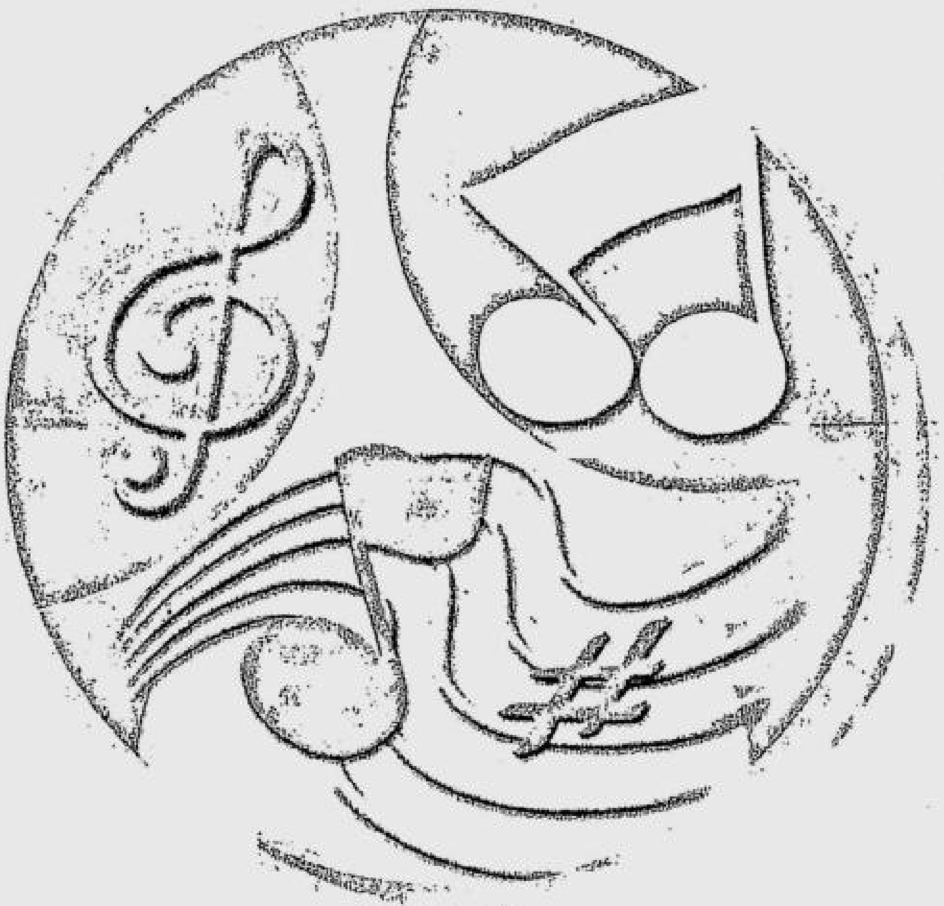
Cartoons



Games



Movies



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Your kid can hit a homerun.
Find out on p. 2

SATURDAY
Special

Dench and Smith light up London theaterland

By Paul Majendie

LONDON—Britain's two most famous actresses, Judi Dench and Maggie Smith, gave London theaterland a welcome boost on Tuesday, taking to the stage together to star in a new play that is already a virtual sellout.

Close personal friends

The two Oscar winners, who were born within three weeks of each other in 1934 and are close personal friends, were hailed by the first night audience at "The Breath of Life" by playwright David Hare.

"There is nothing like a Dame on the London stage," declared the Daily Mail, referring to the British honorary titles held by both women.

The Mail's theater critic Michael Coveney decided that Dame Judi edged out Dame Maggie and should be crowned as Britain's greatest national treasure.

London's theaterland, which is heavily dependent on tourists, was hard hit by an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in the countryside and then the fallout from the Sept. 11 attacks.

Hefty promotions

Long-running musicals like "Cats" and "Starlight Express" closed and the capital launched hefty promotions to lure theatergoers back.

Dench and Smith have proved to be a dream combination.

"It is looking very good indeed. We are booking until Christmas and we are very nearly sold out already," producer Robert Fox told Reuters. "I would love to take them to Broadway." And he insisted this was not some gladiatorial combat between two of Britain's greatest acting talents.

"This is very much not a contest despite what some newspapers might say. They are both totally remarkable and wonderful. It has all been very pleasant and enjoyable," he said.

Smith plays a curator living alone on the Isle of Wight. One day a popular novelist, played by Dench, comes to her door.

Together they expose their shared pain—they love the same man.

Britain's two most bankable actresses were last on screen together in Franco Zeffirelli's "Tea with Mussolini." In the Oscar stakes, Smith boasts two—for "The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie" and "California Suite"—while Dench has one for her role as Queen Elizabeth I in "Shakespeare in Love." They both claim a Tony award apiece on Broadway.

New generation of fans

And Hollywood still beckons for both of them—The Harry Potter movies have won Smith a new generation of fans, while Dench has gained plaudits as the deadpan spy chief M in the James Bond movies.

Trawling back in the theatrical archives, Variety's Matt Wolf found the two last shared a billing in 1959 as part of the ensemble at the legendary Old Vic theater.

Joining the theatrical love-in for the dynamic dames, the critic of the Hollywood trade magazine decreed: "These actresses are simply unique. The Judi-Maggie show is sure to stand apart." *Reuters*

DENCH (LEFT)AND SMITH. Dream combination.

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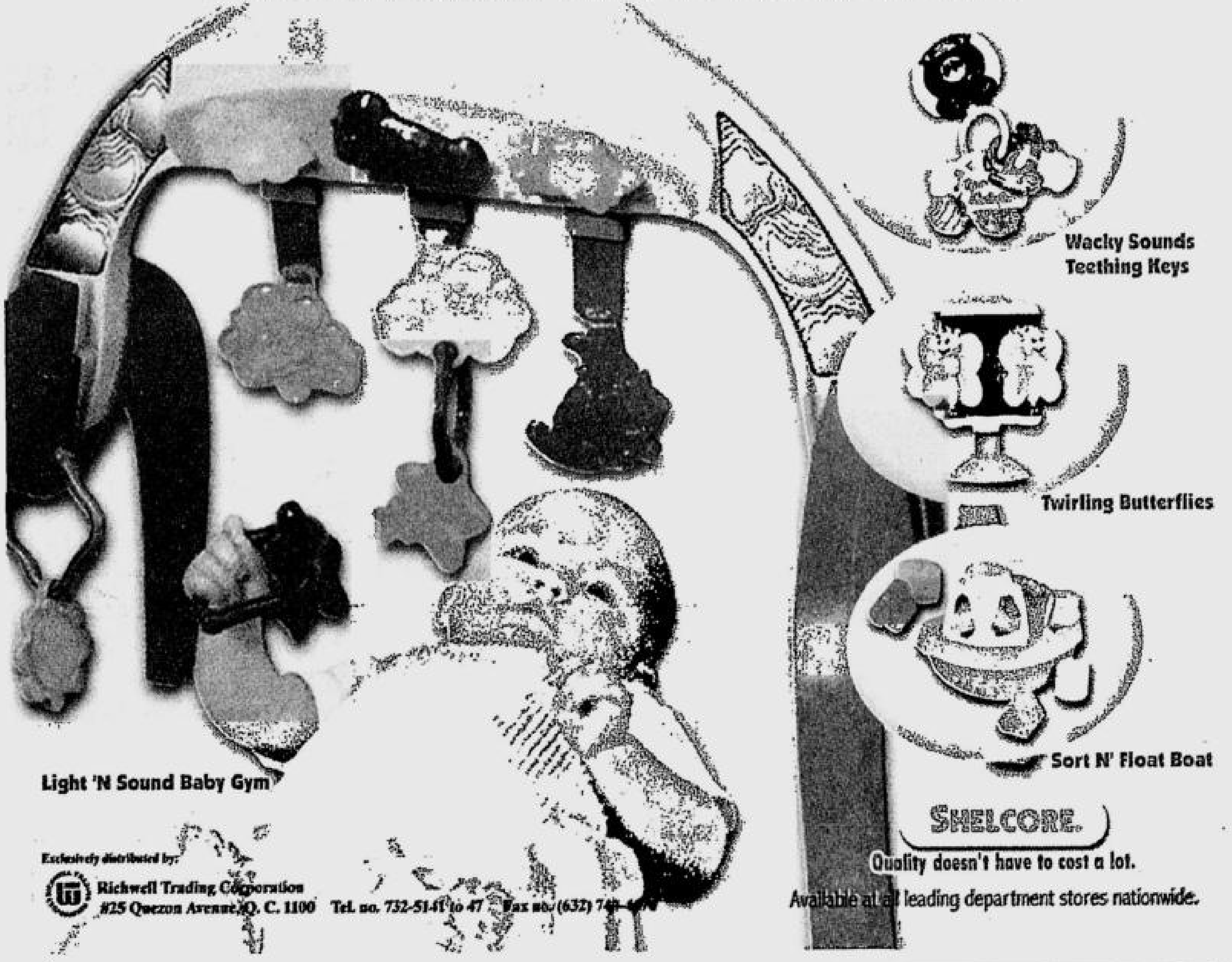

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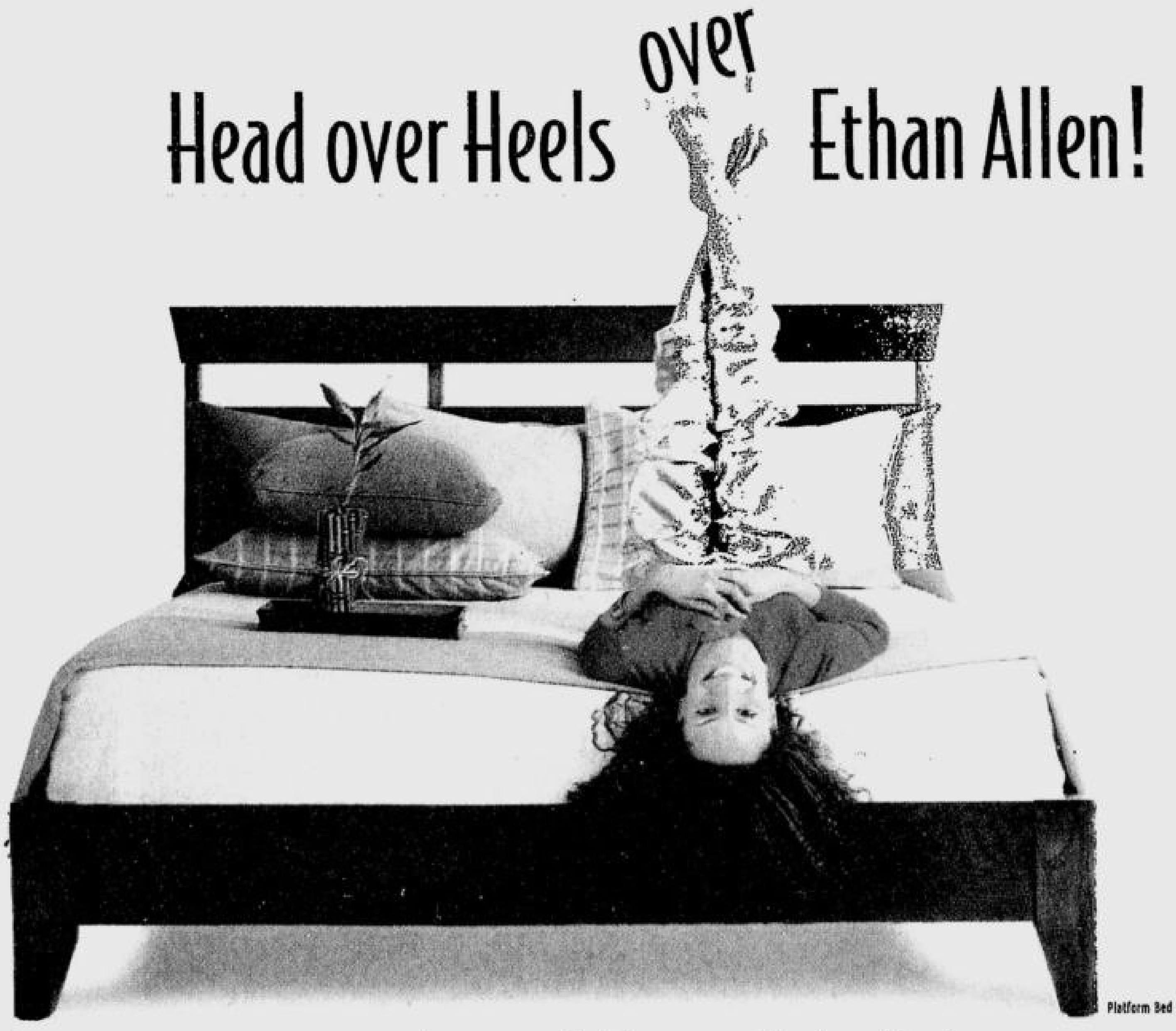

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Aiza Seguerra wants to do indie movies

What keeps her grounded despite the heady seductiveness of stardom? 'First and last, my family'

By Edmund L. Sicam

WE are pleasantly surprised to see Aiza Seguerra looking demure and ladylike at the presscon for Regal's "Singsing Ni Lola." We've been used to seeing the former child star in rugged outfits and behaving like a macho actor.

Success

Success looks good on Aiza, who was finding it hard crossing over from child star to young actress until "Pagdating ng Panahon" came along. That song stayed on top of the charts for a long time and Aiza was suddenly being called the savior of the local music industry because, all of a sudden, a local composition was trouncing the imported hits.

Aiza prefers not to think that way—she's just one of many people, she says, who helped pave the way for OPM music. If she starts thinking that way, "*Baka lumaki lang ang ulo ko.*"

So, what keeps her grounded? And why hasn't she crashed like other child stars who are still in show business, like Drew Barrymore? "*Alam mo, importante diyan yung nasa paligid mo. Ako, pamilya. Sila yung nag-maintain ng paa ko sa lupa. Kasi nawala rin ako, di ba? Pero maayos naman ako, hindi naman ako nag-droga. Siguro, kasi nakita ko na may buhay pa* outside show business.

"*Nakita ko na masaya rin pala kung walang* fame. *Nakita ko yung* advantage *na makaka*-gimmick *ka na walang humahabol sa iyong* camera. *At natanggap ko... siguro yun yung pinaka*-key *doon. Sa umpisa pa lang, tanggapin mo na puwedeng mawala. Kasi pag hindi mo tinanggap na lahat na meron ka,* sooner or later *mawawala sa iyo,* I don't think *kakayanin mo pa iyon.*"

What would she have done, had "Pagdating" not succeeded the way it did? "I would have given up. *Sabi ko nun, mukhang wala na...hindi ko inisip na sa* singing *ako babalik. Akala ko sa pagiging artista ulit, e sabi ko,* oh my gosh, *ang daming magagaling, ang daming magaganda... huwag na lang. Mahirap umasa ulit.* So *plano ko, magtapos na lang ng* school and then work."

AIZA co-stars with Gloria Romero in "Singsing ni Lola."

Destiny

Apparently, she was destined for other things. After "Pagdating ng Panahon", she proved she was more than a one-hit wonder and churned out even more hits from her second album. Now, after her successful concert a few weeks ago where she had to wear a gown (laughs Aiza, "Actually, *walang problema sa akin yung* gown, *ang problema sa akin* was the shoes, they were too high for me. *Hindi ako sanay mag*-high heels"), she's comfortable about where she is in her career: She's here to stay.

Perhaps the reason why Aiza is back after all this time is that she isn't afraid to reinvent herself and experiment. Just look at what she's doing now: Firstly she's just finished "Singsing ni Lola," a horror flick. But what she really wants to do are experimental movies— "*yung* commercial *at hindi masyadong* crowd-pleaser *na* movie."

Her Christmas album has just been released, but what she wants to do is cut an album that has songs she really wants to do—and not have her name on it, so people will not heap expectations on the album because she's Aiza Seguerra.

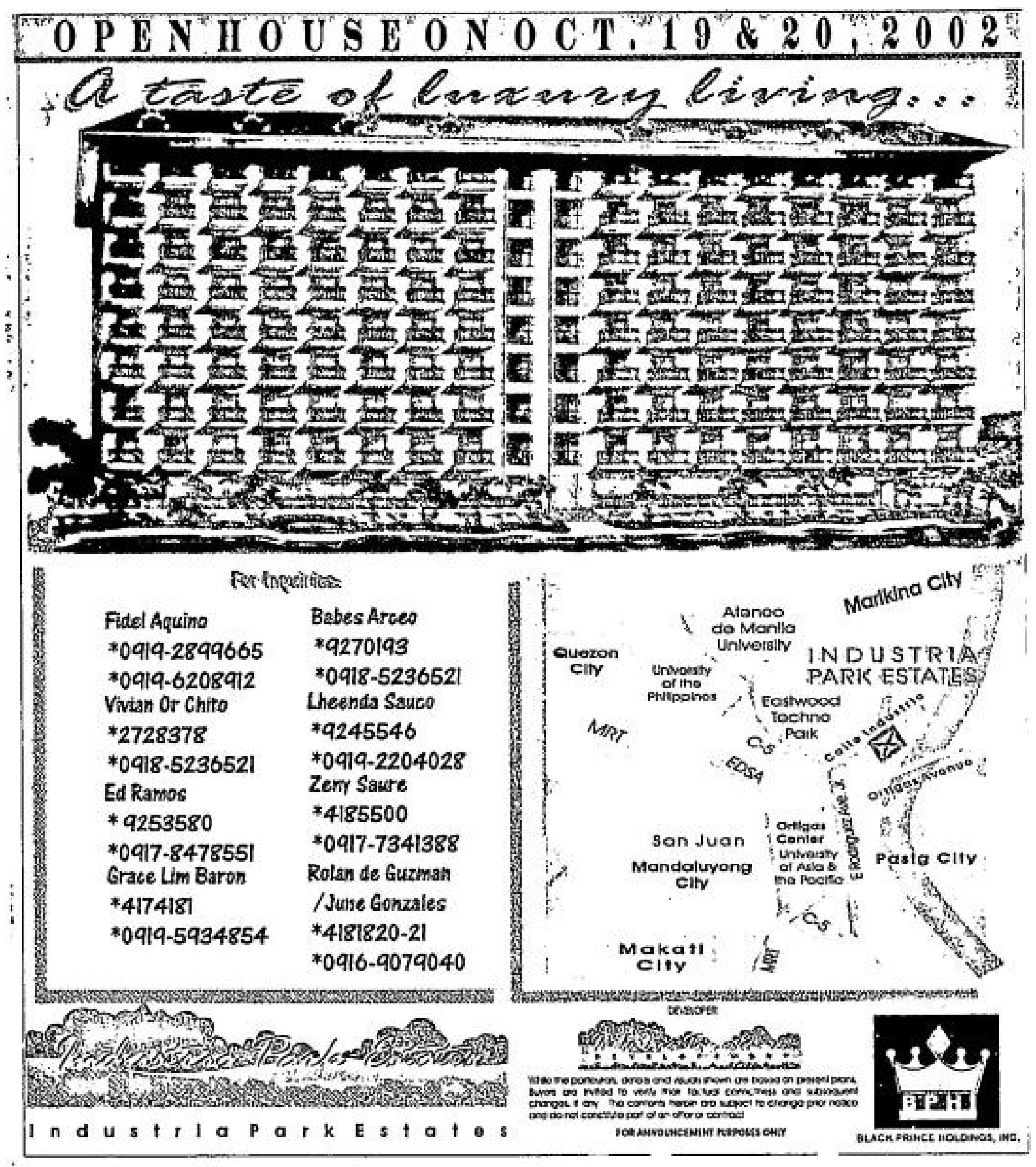
Sex education

Next, she's the host of an educational TV show that's about to be aired on the Knowledge Channel—and the topic is Sex Education. It's aimed mostly at high school students. It's going to be in Taglish, and some of the topics of the shows she's taped have been: same-sex relationships, male reproductive system, virginity, and masturbation. "When you think about it, *sobrang* for liberated people, but we really have to talk about it. *Saan pa malalaman ng* teenagers *yan? Sa kabarkada nila?* E, sometimes *mali pa.* So *kailangan ma*-educate *ang mga bata.*"

To top it all off, she's not accepting any other singing gigs for awhile because she's part of a play by Atlantis, "The Rocky Horror Picture Show." This is mostly rock singing, she says, so the placement of her voice would be different. It won't be easy, she admits, but "*Walang darating sa akin na hindi ko kaya. Kaya ko yan.*" She's confident rehearsals will take care of that. Oh, and yes, she plays a guy in this musical.

Aiza truly has come a long way from being a child star of the '80s, but just how much of the child star is still there? "*Siguro yung pagiging makulit, pero sa* stage *na lang. Halos pareho rin . . . yung pagiging* hyper . . . *pero ang nabago lang, ang* off-cam. *Kasi nung bata ako, masyadong machika. Ngayon, kimi ako, mahiyain. Pero pag nasa* stage, *wala na.*" Because she feels that's where she truly belongs.

But what would Aiza really, really want to be if she weren't a singer? "*Gusto kong maging* detective!" In particular, she wants to use forensic science to solve crimes, like the heroes of the TV show, "CSI."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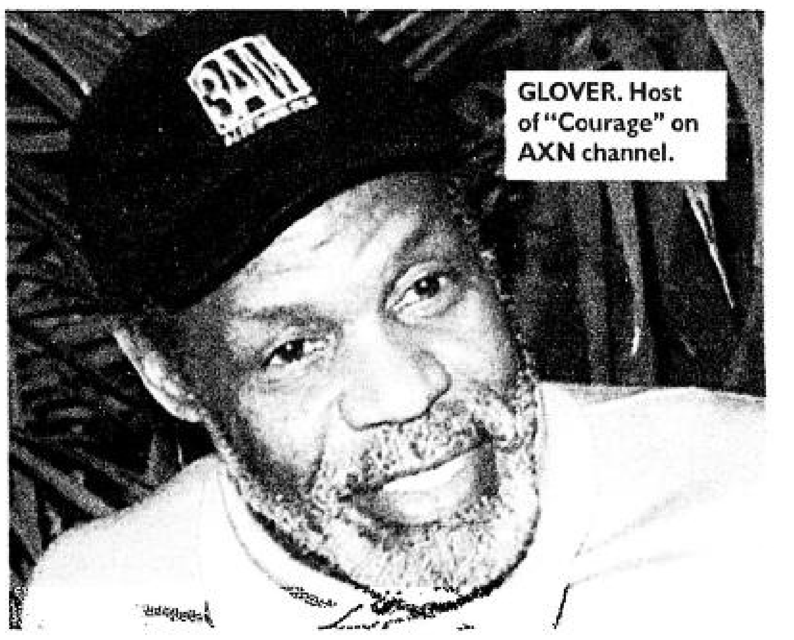
GLOVER. Host of "Courage" on AXN channel.

Tales of courage on TV

By Nestor U. Torre

TELEVISION is often criticized for holding up mediocre and even downright lousy people as role models for viewers. Once in a while, however, really admirable individuals are focused on, and their sterling example inspires viewers to be similarly outstanding, giving and courageous in their own spheres of influence.

Two examples

Last Saturday, we were gratified to see two such examples that made our viewing day. Interestingly enough, they were both stories literally about "courage under fire," or, more properly, courage during fires and other calamities.

The first was about a homegrown hero, a very young Filipino who saved twins from a raging fire that snuffled out the life of one of their siblings.

As his story of courage was told on "Wish Ko Lang," viewers were moved when they saw that huge sections of the young hero's face, arms and torso were severely scarred from the burns he had sustained while running in and out of the burning house on his selfless rescue mission.

Aspersions

Ironically, instead of being hailed publicly as a hero after the fire, aspersions were cast on the boy, and some donations were even kept away from him.

But the show made up for that neglect by making a big deal of the boy's deed, complete with parade, marching band, etc.

The best thing about the feature was the young hero's simple acceptance of the harsh consequences of his act of heroism. He was severely scarred, but he held absolutely no rancor against anybody, and was simply glad that he had saved two young people's lives, even if they weren't his relatives.

Nurses

That same evening, on "Courage" on the AXN channel, a similar tale of heroism under fire—and an earthquake, to boot—was told. This time, it involved nurses who had to save 21 premature babies in the middle of the night!

In addition, "Courage" had other stories of heroism and fortitude to share—like the solo voyage around the world by an old man in a small boat.

What made this particular feature truly instructive and inspiring was the fact that, during the many months that the voyage took, the lone navigator was able to talk to thousands of students in the States through a two-way communication system.

Huge impact

This had a huge impact on them, because the solo sailor's voyage was fraught with all sorts of dangers, and they were able to empathize with him through all of those tests that threatened to shatter his initial resolve.

Thus, they saw that courage is not a general predisposition, but must be earned every step of the way. That it's OK to falter, but the important thing is to pick yourself up and resume your courageous struggle towards your ultimate goal.

It is hoped that, like those students, AXN viewers also learned those lessons, and more.

Let's have more such inspiring but reality-based tales on free and cable TV. And let's use these TV heroes to motivate us to be better, more giving and braver people as well.

Parents should discipline their children

CHILDREN are born into this world with a will of their own. Oftentimes, their will is to get things done their way. Tantrums and screams are the early manifestations of their consciousness.

Selfishness

Children also manifest their selfishness They want to be the owners and masters of their little kingdoms.

Due to this false lordship and its selfish inclinations, a child must be trained to distinguish between right and wrong.

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In America, some parents don't want to discipline their children. They just want to be friends to their kids, so they give their children what they want, and they turn into monsters.

Wrath

Some parents don't want to educate or discipline their kids because this might upset them. So, they no longer yell at their children, it's the kids who shout at them. Parents don't want to enforce discipline because they might become targets of their children's wrath.

Kids grow up thinking, "I am here to please myself and anyone who gets in my way will experience my anger." As soon as they earn their own money, they go off to live self-centered lives of material pleasure.

Ultimately, the fruit of their pursuit is, they get to have children of their own—little rebels just like themselves—and thus suffer their worst nightmare. They experience the bad karmic reactions to their rebelliousness.

Not God

Parents, teachers and spiritual mentors must teach: "You are not God. You are not owner, lord or master. You are servant of the Supreme Being, and being a selfish rebel will not make you happy. Real happiness comes from submitting to the authority of the Lord and doing what He wants."

If we want to have a peaceful and progressive society, parents must discipline their kids. If parents fail to execute their task due to ignorance, fear or laziness, many will be affected by their lack of responsibility.

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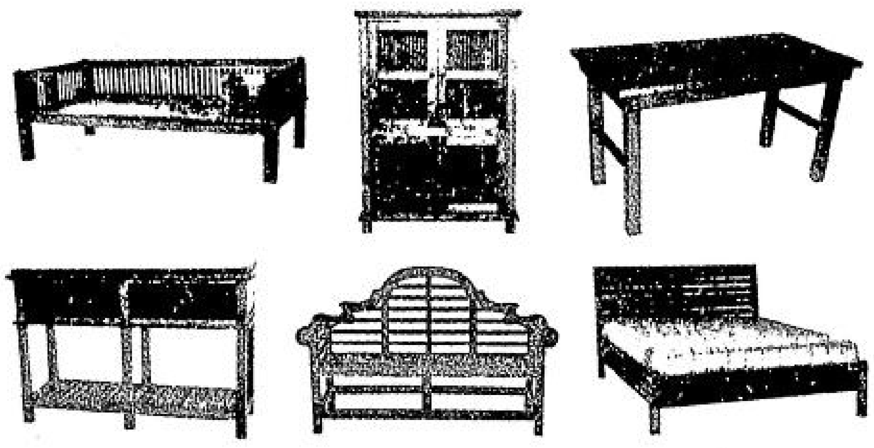

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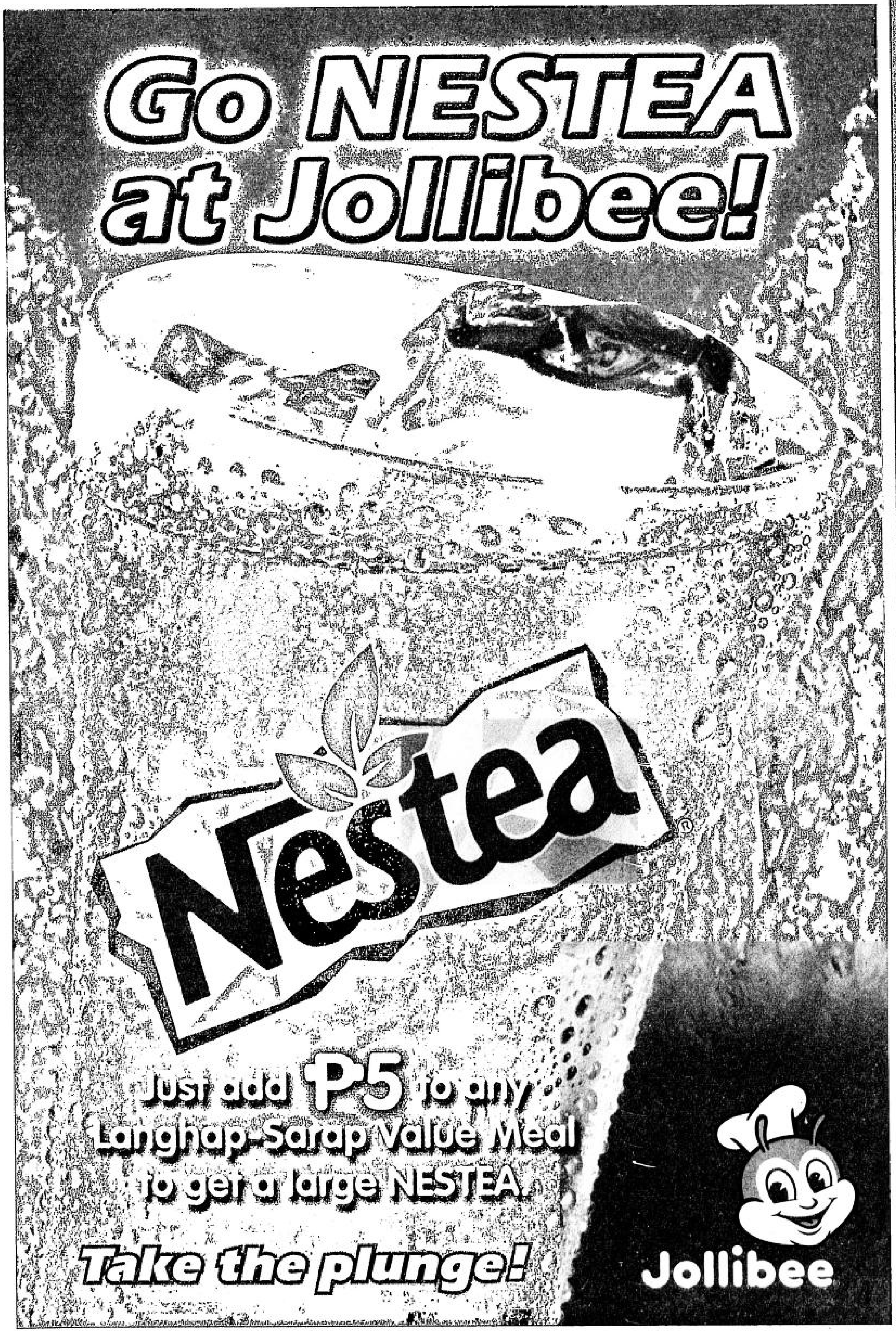

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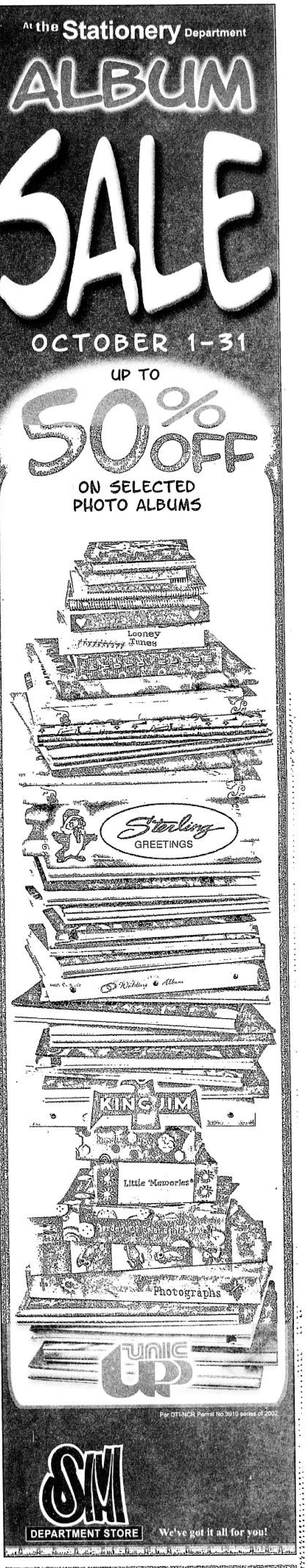

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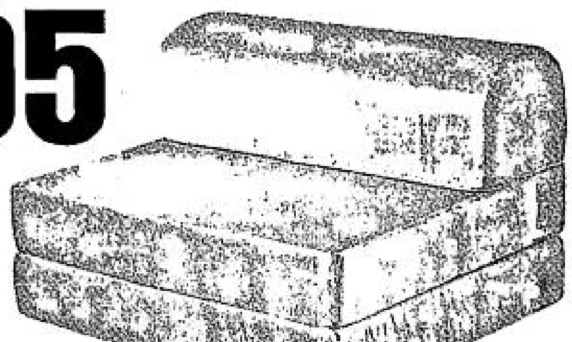

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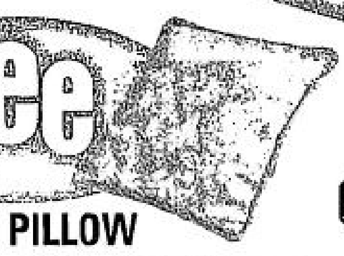

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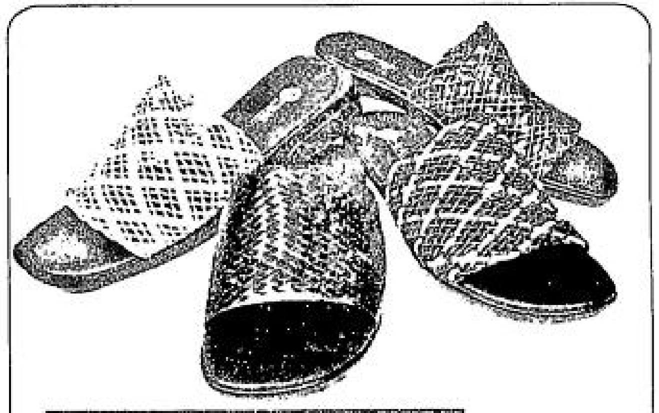

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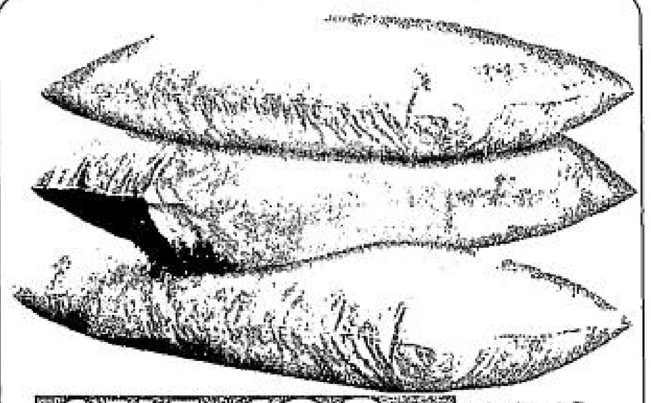

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LOHMAN won the lead in "White Oleander," a mother-daughter drama in which the 23-year-old actress co-stars with Michelle Pfeiffer, Renee Zellweger and Robin Wright Penn. AP

SATURDAY *Special*

Alison Lohman gets top billing in 'White Oleander'

By David Germain

TORONTO—Young actors generally work their way up the Hollywood hierarchy, from small to medium to major roles.

Middle part

Alison Lohman kind of skipped that middle part, snaring the lead in "White Oleander," a mother-daughter drama in which the 23-year-old gets top billing over co-stars Michelle Pfeiffer, Renee Zellweger and Robin Wright Penn.

For a follow-up, Lohman is just wrapping up production on next year's con-man caper "Matchstick Men," directed by Ridley Scott and starring Nicolas Cage and Sam Rockwell.

Before now, her credits were limited to local musical theater as a child actress, bit roles in films such as "The Thirteenth Floor" and a meaty regular stint in the short-lived TV drama "Pasadena."

ALISON/ G2

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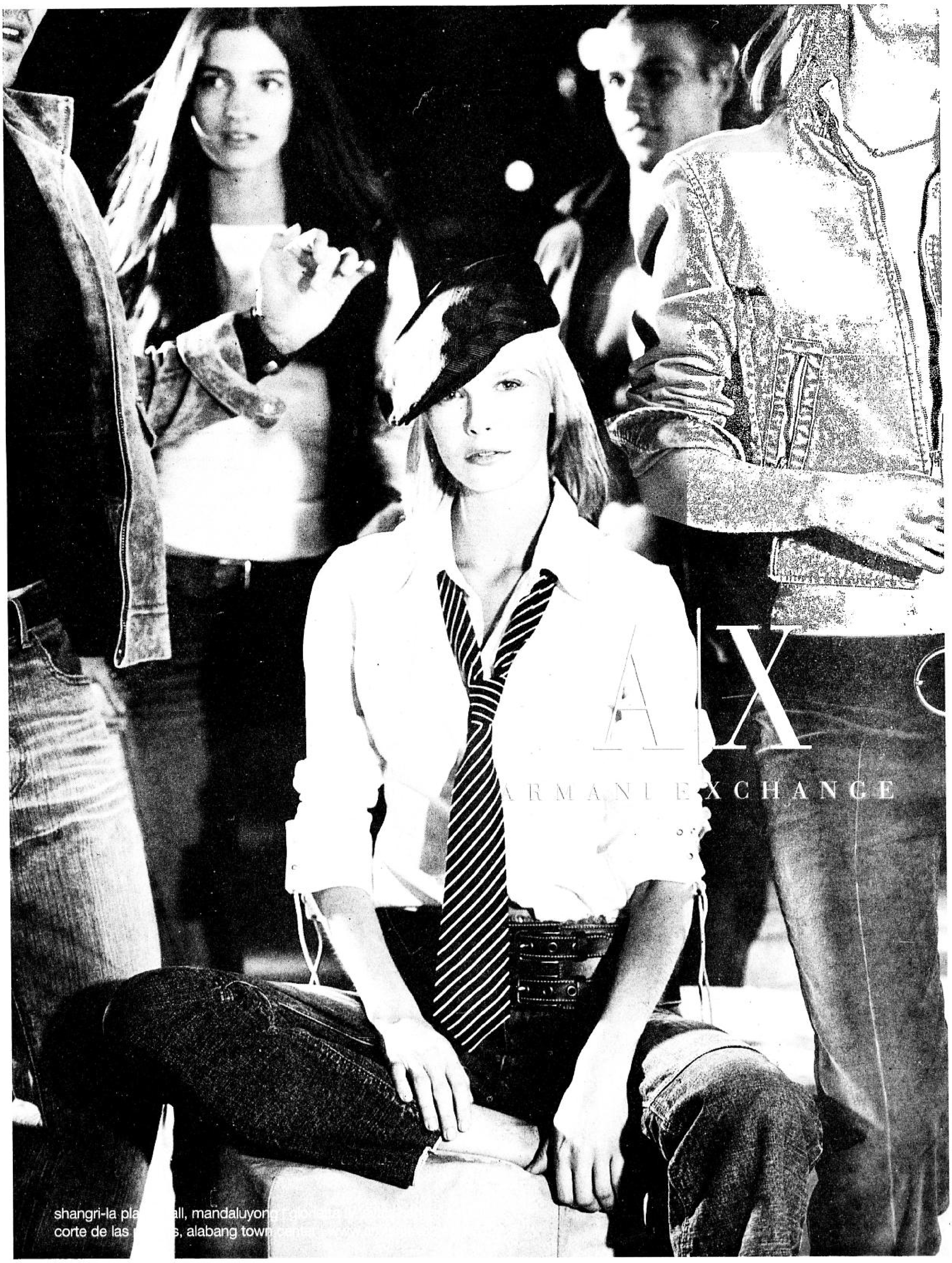


RAYMOND AND LARA. Really close call.

TWO FOR THE SHOW

Raymond and Lara Bagatsing get most jolting experience of their lives in Bali

By Mary Ann Bautista and Ricky T. Gallardo

LOVEBIRDS Raymond and Lara were in Bali last weekend when tragedy struck a few hundred meters from where they stayed.

Raymond went on official business to serve as judge for the annual Asian TV Awards, and he thought it would be nice for his wife to follow so they could enjoy the solitude and serenity that the island vacation spot offers. Little did they know that they were about to have the most jolting experience of their lives.

A bomb explosion led to a fire of great magnitude and uncontrollable panic amongst weekend revelers right in the heart of Kuta's entertainment district, which resulted in the death and injury of hundreds of vacationing tourists and locals.

The couple flew back Tuesday night on separate flights. We had the chance to speak to Raymond, who is very grateful that they were spared. He shared, "About half an hour before the tragedy struck, we were exactly at the place where the bomb exploded. So, imagine how we felt when we realized how grave the situation was!"

Raymond added, "You know, when I arrived, everyone was in high spirits, but you should have felt the mood when I was on my way to the airport to catch my flight home. It was eerie, so deafeningly quiet.

"God is good and I guess it still wasn't our *karma* to exit from this planet that way. But I feel for those who didn't survive, and their families and friends as well."

Cherry Pie is busier than ever

Just when she thought motherhood would slow her down, Cherry Pie Picache finds herself busier than ever.

"I'm lucky that I didn't have a hard time getting back to the business after having my baby. And I'm grateful that producers, directors and casters still prefer to get me for their major support character requirements," she says, fulfillment and joy evident in her glowing eyes.

Picache's baby boy Jose Antonio is now five months old and the multi-talented actress has obviously learned time management, because she's able to do her projects in a breeze. Her latest movie is "Masikip, Mainit (Paraisong, Parisukat)."

Picache plays Pastora, the owner of the shoe store where the lives of the characters played by Joyce Jimenez and Jay Manalo intertwine.

Art ave. celebrates fourth year

We were treated to an overflow of music,

RAYMOND/ G3

Alison . . .

From page G1

"I've been working a long time, but I guess I'm a newcomer to people who haven't heard of me," said Lohman, who grew up in Palm Springs, California, and moved to Los Angeles to break into movies at 17.

Newcomer

"This is really the first movie that people will have seen me in, so I understand why I'm called a newcomer," she said in an interview.

Adapted from Janet Fitch's novel, "White Oleander" drew a lot of "promising newcomer" buzz for Lohman at Toronto, where the film premiered. She holds her own opposite her established co-stars as a teen tossed into a succession of nasty foster homes after her mother (Pfeiffer) is jailed for murder.

"White Oleander" director Peter Kosminksy says Lohman has a veteran's poise. "I don't want to oversell it, but I think we are talking about a new star," he said.

"Alison has it, and thank God she does, because it drives the movie. When you see her head-to-head with Michelle Pfeiffer in this big, final confrontation scene, you really want to watch her take her mother apart brick by brick. It's a powerful scene, and you can't teach that. It's some innate thing she was born with." Q & A:

Where did the acting bug come from?

At first, I enjoyed singing when I was little, and I always liked the idea of acting out characters from books that I'd read. So I'd get all my cousins together and we'd put on these plays in the backyard. I remember making up a lot of them, and we actually did it for our school, which is pretty embarrassing. I can't believe I had the guts to do that, because I'm a shy person. I don't know how I'm an actor, seriously, because I'm really shy.

When did you first encounter "White Oleander"?

I read the book before I even knew there was going to be a script. I remember thinking, 'Wow, this would be such a good movie if they ever make it.'

Surreal

It's one of those things where you read books and think, "I'd love to play this part." And you actually get to do it. That's pretty surreal for me.

Your character's a chameleon, radically changing hairstyles, wardrobes and deportment with each change in foster home. How difficult was that?

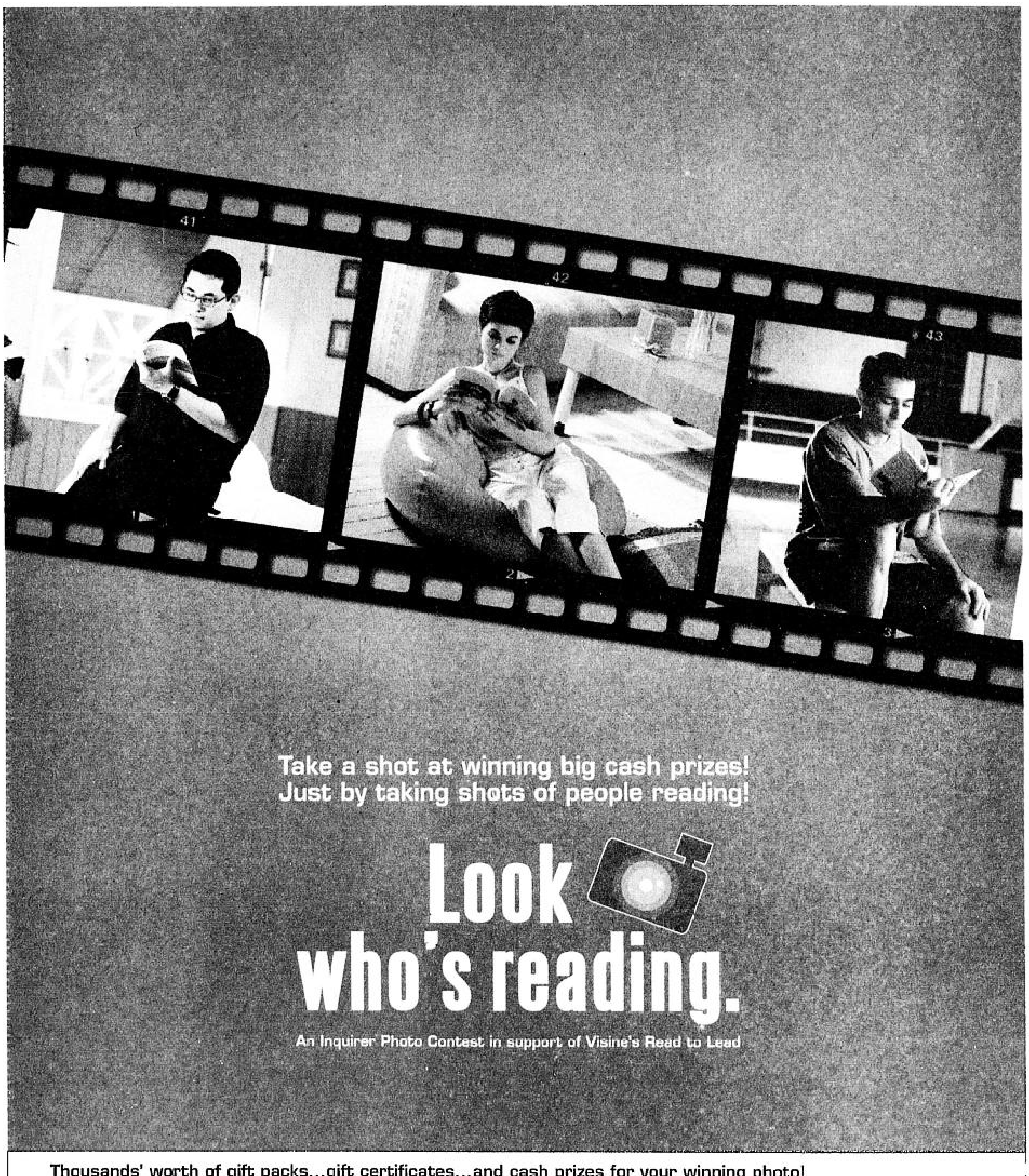
It definitely was like playing several different characters, because she sort of morphs herself into these new sets of standards. It's a whole new universe she has to get herself into each time, whatever the foster mother wants her to be or she thinks the foster mother wants her to be. It wasn't easy, but if you ever get mixed up, you take a look at yourself in the mirror. You have a different wig on, a different outfit on, so you go, 'No, no, no, I'm this character today.'

How intimidating was it taking the lead with such established actresses in supporting roles?

It was intimidating initially, but then everyone was so nice, and they made me feel really comfortable immediately just by being themselves, which allowed me to be myself. Everyone realizing we're all making a movie together, the whole collaboration of it. I didn't have anything to prove to any of them, and knowing that really helped me.

Your "White Oleander" character, Astrid, idolizes her mother, Ingrid, then gets a rude awakening as she deals with her mom's obsessions and the cruelty and weaknesses of her various foster mothers. How did your own upbringing compare to Astrid's?

My parents love me unconditionally. They aren't selfish. I'm really, really close with my mom. I think my mom's my best friend, so in that regard, I adore my mother like Astrid adores Ingrid. But I don't know if it was as obsessively as Astrid. An important part of the movie is Astrid's love for her mother, and I definitely understand that, and it was something I could draw on from my own life. *AP*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8. Only entries received from October 7 to December 10, 2002 will be included in the weekly contest. Winners can only win once in the weekly contest.
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10. Photos must be original and not manipulated. Pictures submitted in print should ideally be sent in with negatives. Photographer must have obtained the consent to photograph subjects, venues and other details in photo. Philippine Daily Inquirer, Visine (Pfizer) and National Book Store will not be liable for any legal or civil complaint/suit that may arise from unauthorized publishing of photos submitted.
11. Organizers reserve the right to determine the validity of entries submitted. All entries received become the property of Philippine Daily Inquirer.

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'The Transporter' marred by misogynistic streak

By Anthony Breznican

LOS ANGELES—Meet BMW enthusiast Frank Martin, sociopath with a heart of gold.

No problem

He has no problem delivering a bound-and-gagged woman to a group of snarling thugs, but out of sympathy he buys her an orange soda and cuts a hole in the tape over her mouth so she can drink it.

Is she going to be raped or killed by his clients? He doesn't care—as long as she's not too thirsty.

Martin is the anti-hero of "The Transporter," a car-chase-and-gunplay adventure that would be wicked fun if not for an ugly misogynistic streak.

British actor Jason Statham, a former Olympic diver and co-star of "Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels," plays Martin with a kind of Frank Sinatra cool. In the film's opening sequence, he rolls his customized Beemer in front of a bank and four frantic robbers pile in while an alarm shrieks inside the building.

Martin politely refuses to drive: the original deal stipulated three men, not four. He says it would be futile to attempt escape because he calculated the getaway with precise fuel, shock absorbers, etc.

Lead crook

He waits patiently until one of the robbers is killed and dumped—then races away. As the car rumbles up a concrete staircase, the Transporter says to the lead crook: "See what I mean about the shocks?"

The ensuing chase is gasp-inducing and played with sly humor, but the movie falls apart like a jalopy, with hackneyed villains played by Matt Schulze and Ric Young and a series of wild inconsistencies.

After dropping off the squirming young lady (Hong Kong action actress Shu Qi), Martin agrees to chauffeur a suitcase to another location.

The suitcase is a bomb—placed for no apparent reason—that blows his beloved car to smithereens.

Revenge

When he goes back for revenge, he frees Shu's character, who follows him around like a lost kitten. After he cuts off her ropes, she smiles, makes him breakfast, helps him hide his crimes from the police and sleeps with him.

Shu, who performs with a lot of charm despite her weak character, says she needs his help freeing a group of Asians trapped in a shipping container. Why they're in there, we never learn—but it sets up a few more car chases and fight scenes for our revenge-seeking Transporter.

Thrilling

Director Cory Yuen orchestrates the fights with an eye toward ballet, humor and innovation and the result is usually thrilling. Everything from an oil slick to a parachute can be turned into a weapon.

French filmmaker Luc Besson ("La Femme Nikita" and "The Professional") produced and co-wrote "The Transporter" with Robert Mark Kamen, and they undercut the fun of the action sequences with weird inconsistencies.

Such as: Why would a man who just used his sweater to pulverize 18 men have such trouble disarming an old guy who's waggling a revolver at him?

"The Transporter," a 20th Century Fox release, runs 94 minutes. One and a half stars (out of four). *AP*

JASON Statham (L) and Shu Qi are shown in a scene from the new action film "The Transporter." REUTERS

'Shear Madness' runs on and on

By Michael Kuchwara

WASHINGTON—"Shear Madness" is the little whodunit that went and did it—run on and on and on by simply asking: Who murdered Isabel Czerny?

Bastion of culture

It is a question that's been posed around the world: from Boston to Budapest, from Barcelona to Buenos Aires, and at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, that marble bastion of culture where "Shear Madness" has been playing in its Theater Lab since August 1987. And the end is not in sight.

"Shear Madness" celebrates its 15th anniversary on Tuesday with a special performance—number 6,456.

In Boston, the show has been around even longer, still running after more than two decades in a small, 196-seat space in the Charles Playhouse, making it is the longest running play in American theater history. Although it hasn't run as long as Agatha Christie's "The Mousetrap," still playing in London after half a century, or the tiny off-Broadway musical "The Fantasticks," which closed in January after a nearly 42-year run.

Let's talk statistics. "Shear Madness" has been seen by more than 6.2 million people around the globe, two million in Washington alone. Worldwide, grosses stand at $112 million and counting, with the Washington troupe supplying more than $35 million.

Murder mystery

Not bad for a beauty-parlor murder mystery and a collection of suspects that could be right out of a Christie caper, by way of a more antic, frantic version of "Murder, She Wrote."

There's Tony, the gay hairdresser, tart-tongued and totally outrageous; Barbara, the manicurist, hard as the nails she buffs and cuts; Mrs. Shubert, the middle-aged matron who could be concealing dirty doings; and Eddie, a suspicious dealer in antiques—just what is he carrying in that briefcase, anyway? *AP*

Raymond . . .

From page G2

booze and merrymaking during Art ave.'s 4th anniversary bash. Providing stellar acoustic entertainment were May Bayot, Romy Jarolon and the Acoustic Jive, Fiddler's Green, Invocan and recent discovery Paolo Santos.

Art ave. is a bar and restaurant along Pearl Drive in Ortigas that can be transformed into an artist's den or art gallery, depending on which artist it is collaborating with at the moment.

The "mute madness" themed affair was put together by the new events production company of Melissa Gibbs, Candy Pangilinan, Zarah Zabaljauregui and Kathlyn Pike. Good work, girls!

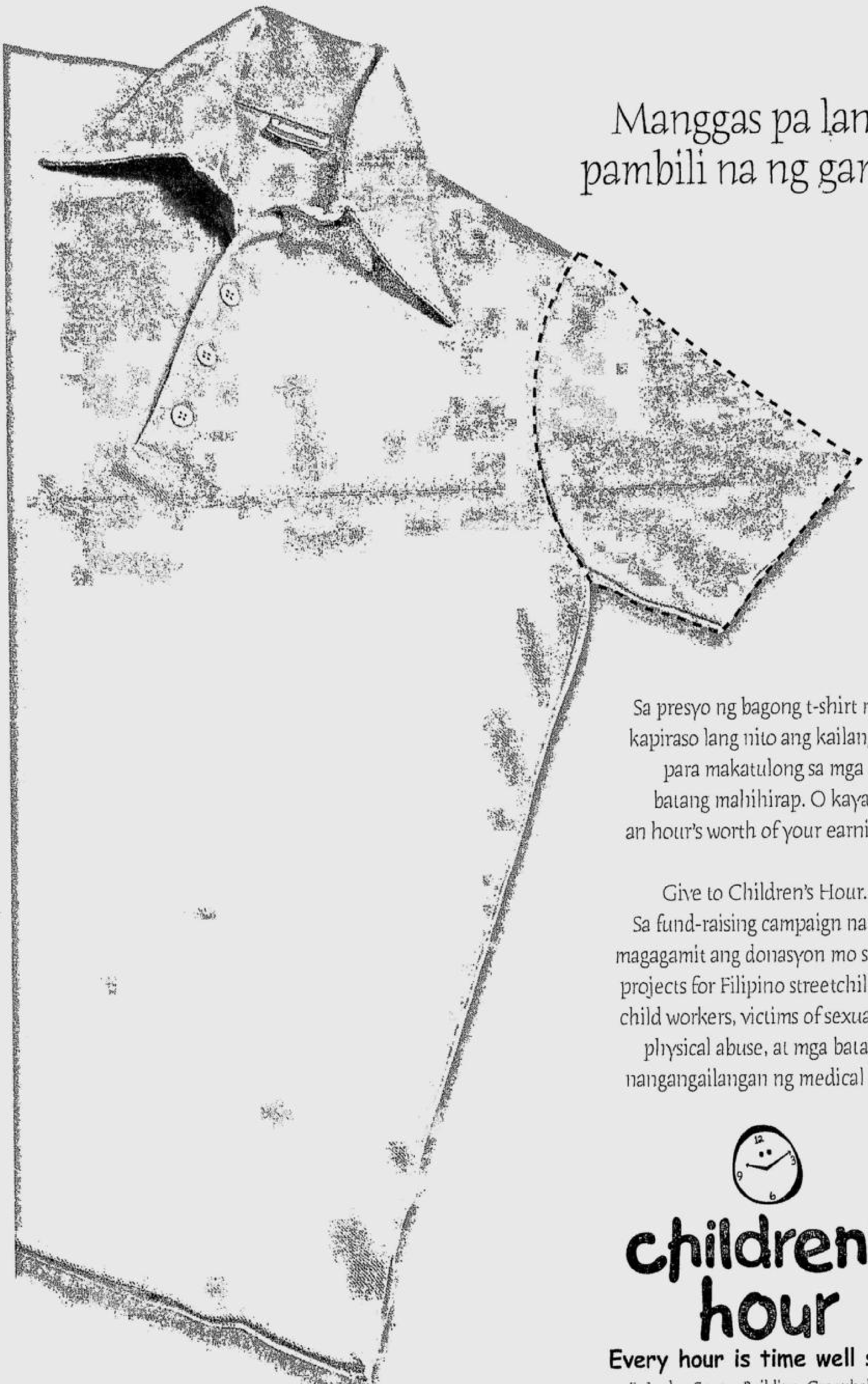
Dominic Ochoa counts his blessings

With an upbeat television career up his sleeves, Dominic Ochoa feels that doing movies is a wonderful "balancing act." "And definitely a very good sideline," he adds. He cites the film "Nine Mornings" as a good example.

"Had I given up when times were difficult, I wouldn't have enjoyed these blessings," he intones.

He feels proud of his new film, and describes it as the story of "imperfect people living in an imperfect world, trying to find meaning and love and happiness."

Dominic and Marvin Agustin are currently in the States for a—hold your breath—live concert!



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Which cable movie channel do viewers prefer to watch?

"BAND OF BROTHERS." Realistic depiction of war.

By Noelani Torre

WE just can't seem to get enough of movies. We watch them on the big screen in theaters and on VHS, VCD and DVD at home. And when one has no cash to buy a movie ticket or rent a movie, don't despair, there's always cable television.

This couch potato's joy of an invention offers, among other things, movies all day and all night! Thus, there are numerous cable movie channels on TV nowadays, all of them professing to fulfill all our movie-watching needs.

Of course, not all of them live up to their self-advertising. To find out which ones do, we asked the experts—professional couch potatoes and ardent movie viewers—to share with us which cable movie channel they preferred above all the others. Here are their choices:

Eclectic

"HBO. Because they have an eclectic array of films. For example, they have films that can be considered art films, and they also have the usual Hollywood flicks. Plus, they feature in-depth interviews with people who are involved in the moviemaking business.

"It's nice that they don't just focus on the actors, but also give credit to the people working behind the scenes.

"I've also noticed that they show the latest films ahead of the others. What I most liked was their war miniseries 'Band of Brothers.' It was a more realistic depiction of war compared to those done by the big Hollywood studios."—*Jude Sevilla, Angeles City.*

Experimental

"Cinemax. *Ang mga* movies *nila di* usually *yung mga* box-office type of stories. *Hindi sila* commercial, *minsan* experimental *pa nga o kaya laging may pinaparating.*

"*Nakakasawa na kasi yung mga lagi nating napapanood na* commercial movies. *Mas gusto ko yung mga pinapalabas sa* Cinemax *kasi di predictable ang* ending, *mas* edgy *ang dating, mas* conceptual *keysa sa* glamorous."—*Alfred Braga, Gen. Santos City.*

Own world

"HBO. Compared to Hallmark, which is so boring and lives in its own world, HBO is more up to date. It's like you're closer to Hollywood when you watch it. They have one bad point *nga lang: masyado nang umuulit-ulit ang mga* movies *nila minsan.*

"I like the interviews with movie cast members because they feature recent or upcoming movies. But, sometimes, I don't understand the sequencing of their movies, even though they have days when they say they'll feature specific kinds of movies like action, comedy, etc. The point is, I just like watching movies for free."—*Michael John Sacro, Quezon City.*

Classic

"Hallmark. *Kasi parang kabaliktaran siya ng* HBO. Classic *ang* design *ng pag*-present *nila, pero hindi sila laos."*

"*Gusto ko yung mga pinapalabas nila na ibang mga* versions *ng* fairy tales—Snow White,' 'Jack and the Beanstalk,' 'Cinderella.' *Nilalagyan nila ng* twist, *ginagawang* modern, *minsan naman tulad ng sa* 'Cinderella,' *binabago yung* focus.

"*Marami din silang fini*-feature *na* classic, family-oriented movies. *Maliban sa* movies, *meron pa silang* shows *tulad ng* 'Sesame Street.' *Sure ka na, pag may anak ka, di siya makakanood ng malaswa o* violent production."—*Kate Denoso, Alabang.*

Wholesome

"I like watching HBO because it's got all kinds of movies, from comedy to action, suspense, romance, drama, and true-to-life movies. Name it, they have it. Although some of their movies are played over and over again, I still enjoy watching them. Besides, they are kinda wholesome. And they even produce their own films."—*Victoria Christine Inting, Silliman University.*

Nothing stressful

"Hallmark. Because I don't like to get stressed when watching TV, and there's nothing stressful in Hallmark. I also like giving the not so big-budgeted people a chance. HBO, Cinemax, and Star are all big-budget.

"Besides, Hallmark has good quality films, some of them very innovative and enjoyable, like 'Alice in Wonderland,' 'Merlin,' and 'The Arabian Nights.' They're wholesome but not corny.

"I'm tired of seeing all this sex and violence everywhere, so it's good that there are still channels like Hallmark where you can have clean fun."—*Macy Vinluan, Manila.*

Five questions for dancehall star Beenie Man

By Nekesa Mumbi Moody

NEW YORK—With guest artists such as Janet Jackson and Lil' Kim, dancehall superstar Beenie Man admits that his latest album, "Tropical Storm," is an unabashed attempt to appeal to mainstream audiences.

Jamaican singer

The album is designed to attract people who don't usually listen to dancehall music, says the Jamaican singer, who's won a Grammy Award for his intoxicating, sensual island music.

"Dancehall has been around for 50 years now, but it has never been appreciated by the American public unless it's by luck," he said.

Still, Beenie Man, whose given name is Anthony Moses Davis, has had plenty of luck in his career. The 29-year-old Kingston native, who started performing onstage at 5, recorded his first record five years later.

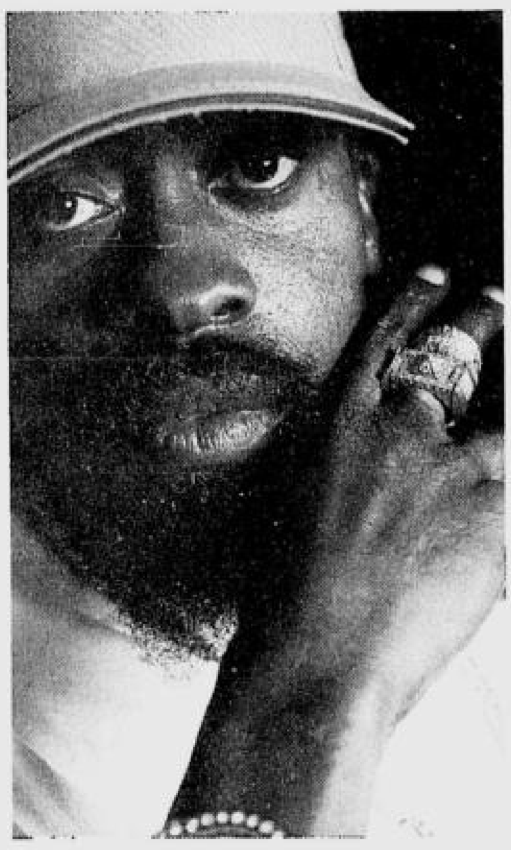
He's now one of the most popular dancehall artists in the world, with hits such as "Girls Dem Sugar," "No Mama No Cry" and "Who Am I."

Wider audience

Beenie Man is hoping to reach a wider audience in the United States with "Tropical Storm," which climbed to No. 7 on the Billboard chart for R&B and hip-hop albums.

But he's not giving up his roots.

"I would never abandon my dancehall music. I live in Jamaica," he said. "I make music every two weeks. My album has nothing to do with my dancehall career, my international career . . . It's two different careers; it's only the same person." Q & A:



MANN admits his latest album, "Tropical Storm," is an unabashed attempt to appeal to a mainstream audience.

AP

Do you regret having started your career at such a young age?

It wasn't easy, but you had to do it . . . you don't get to enjoy yourself, you have to keep on doing music, music and more music. But music is not a job for me. If I take a break, I'm going to lose most of my joy, and I don't want to do that.

Do you go out into the clubs?

I keep it real . . . I'm not Michael Jackson, locked up and away from the people. It's kind of difficult, but you have to deal with it.

What's behind the rivalry between you and fellow dancehall star Bounty Killer?

There's no rivalry between me and anybody. They have a rivalry with me . . . That's the way it goes, you have to live with it. It hypes up the next man's career . . . (even) when people take it to the next level where they want to ruin your career over it, you have to leave it alone.

A lot of dancehall music has been criticized as being anti-gay, including your own songs. How do you respond to that?

I don't support homosexuality because I'm not homosexual, but I don't hate gay people because the more guys a gay man gets is more girls for me . . . Jamaicans come right out and say, "We don't deal with homosexuals". . . That's why the music is homophobic? I don't understand.

You have five children, but no wife or girlfriend. Why haven't you settled down?

I got my heart broken, and I don't intend to get it broken again, so I'm married to music at this time, music is my life and my wife. There's one woman who used to have my head, but that was a long time ago. AP

The 'VeggieTales' studio makes a $14 M gamble with its first movie

By Richard N. Ostling

NEW YORK—The star is an asparagus. His buddies include a tomato and a cucumber. And they're featured in a movie based on the biblical tale of Jonah, the guy who got swallowed by a whale.

Morality

What's the big idea? At Big Idea Productions, it's that kids' entertainment can teach children a thing or two about morality and religious faith yet still trigger a belly laugh or two.

The independent studio from suburban Chicago is about to find out if mainstream moviegoing audiences agree. Its first feature-length film, "Jonah—a VeggieTales Movie," opens Friday.

Big Idea has put $14 million into the movie, making it a gamble even though the company has sold nearly 30 million of the startlingly successful "VeggieTales" animated videos over the past nine years.

"Jonah" recycles the biblical book into a fishy story-within-a-story starring Archibald Asparagus (voiced with a British accent by Big Idea founder Phil Vischer) in the title role, alongside Bob the Tomato, Larry the Cucumber and others from Big Idea's improbable garden of animated fruits and vegetables. ("No vegetables were harmed in the making of this film," viewers are assured.)

Home videos

As with the home videos, Mom, Dad, and other viewers above VeggieTales' target ages of 3-8 will be amused by knowing cultural references: "Jaws" and "Lawrence of Arabia" sneak into the film, as do snack foods, a pop singer, and audiotapes by a motivational speaker ("You are powerful and attractive. You do not run from your problems.")

There are also silly ditties (the best one, "The Credits Song," comes at the end of the credits) and goofy gags. When the prophet Jonah enters town to preach God's law, fast-food stands that offer pork, bats and bugs instantly turn kosher and start selling bagels and coffee.

In this quintessentially Jewish story, the good guy (who was scripted prior to the Sept. 11 attacks) is Khalil, a vaguely Muslim traveling salesman who's half caterpillar, half worm.

Actually, either Muslims or Jews would find VeggieTales productions wholesome rather than troublesome, apart from the studio's Christmas and Easter videos. But Vischer, Big Idea's Iowa-bred founder, is very much a product of white evangelical Protestantism—the Christian and Missionary Alliance, to be specific.

Too comfortable

The 36-year-old Vischer says white, Protestant America has lots of nice, happy people but little great humor. Maybe the people are too comfortable, he muses, admitting that he escaped into humor when his parents divorced. His personal idols became Britain's Monty Python crew and the Coen brothers.

Vischer was tossed out of Minnesota's St. Paul Bible College (now Crown College) for skipping chapel too often, and he started working in video production rather than studying elsewhere.

In 1993, Big Idea produced "Where's God When I'm S-Scared?"—a pioneering children's video with 3D computer animation. By 1998, Wal-Mart came calling.

College degree or not, Vischer is a philosopher who wrote the 72-page "Big Idea 101" manual for prospective employees. It champions a nonsectarian "biblical worldview," which Vischer defines as hope that results from belief that "there is an Author. We live in a grand story—the triumph of a loving God."

He contrasts that with the "modern worldview" that he thinks was typified by Walt Disney and survives in preschool entertainment. It sees no Author but upholds ideals and another grand story, "the triumph of reason, evolution and the progress of the human spirit."

That's fine as far as it goes, he says, but that culture is fast fading and today's children increasingly consume "postmodern" entertainment that's cynical, bereft of any grand story, hope or ideals. In a word: "whatever."

Disrespectful

The married father of three preteens said in a phone interview that, after age 8, what children watch gradually becomes "more disrespectful, sarcastic and cynical."

Not that the big entertainment corporations are immoral "but they're profoundly amoral. They will change values like we change socks," he says. "The problem with amorality in media is, 'Give them what they want.'

"We are committed to giving kids what they need and making it what they want."

What they need, he insists, is values that will benefit them and society. Each show, he says, should have "a nugget of truth a kid can put in his pocket and carry around the rest of his life."

In Vischer's view, children's entertainment has been—and still is—either "completely earnest" ("Mister Rogers' Neighborhood") or "completely snide and insincere" ("The Beavis & Butt-Head Show"). VeggieTales, he says, falls somewhere in the middle. AP

Israel Horovitz's latest play dramatizes the consequences of parental failure

By Tim Molloy

NEW YORK—Before he talks about his new play, Israel Horovitz wants to talk about his children. In a way, the two subjects are the same.

Unhappy childhoods

"My Old Lady," currently playing at off-Broadway's Promenade Theater, is about parents who fail their children and children trying not to let unhappy childhoods destroy their lives. With the play, Horovitz drew on his own life of coping with a father he describes as "raging," and his own pledge not to repeat his father's mistakes.

"If your parents are wonderful, then emulate them," he says. "And if they aren't, do it differently. Because, it flies by."

All over Horovitz's Greenwich Village town house are reminders of his nearly four decades in theater—but more obvious are reminders that he has to keep up with twin teenagers.

On his walls are one-sheets from the more than 50 plays he has written since the 1960s. On the shelves and his desk are stacks of books. But on the floors are 20-pound barbells, and there are bicycles in the foyer. Stacks of running shoes are organized at the top of the stairs.

Bigger jock

The 63-year-old Horovitz is a bigger jock than most people half his age. He and his wife, Gillian, a marathon champion, schedule their days around runs or trips to the gym. Sports bring the family together.

His athleticism and appearance underscore his easy embrace of younger generations. He wears khaki shorts and a sporty polo shirt, and his shoes are of a brand favored by skateboarders. His gray hair is short and spiky.

Horovitz's talk about his 16-year-old son Oliver's success as a high school golfer quickly turns into a discussion of all of his children's accomplishments. Oliver's video projects at school have been on television, and his camerawork is included in "3 Weeks After Paradise," Horovitz's film about how his family dealt with the Sept. 11 attacks.

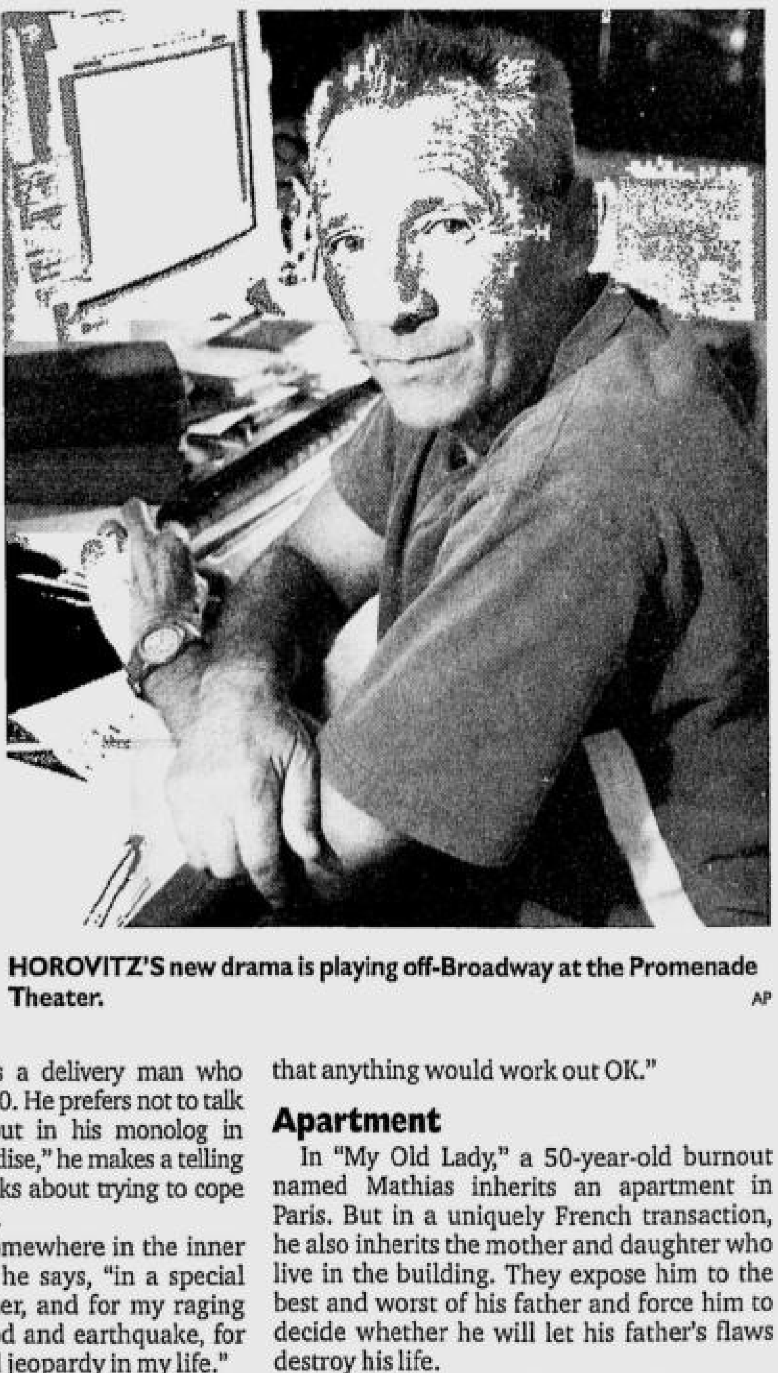
Hannah, Oliver's twin, may be another writer in the family, Horovitz says. His adult daughter, Rachel, is a film producer. One of his adult sons, Matthew Horovitz, works on ESPN television's WNBA Action.

The most famous of his offspring, Adam Horovitz, is one-third of the Beastie Boys. Tucked among Beatles and Simon & Garfunkel records in the living room is the group's greatest hits package.

Success

Horovitz, who grew up in working-class Wakefield, Massachusetts, said his success made it possible for all his children to chase whatever future they wanted.

"I was able to say to my kids, each kid as they came along, 'What is your dream in life?' None of my kids felt like they had to go to law school just in case," he said. "I don't think any of my kids are playing it real safe."



HOROVITZ'S new drama is playing off-Broadway at the Promenade Theater.

AP

Horovitz's father was a delivery man who earned a law degree at 50. He prefers not to talk about his childhood, but in his monolog in "Three Weeks After Paradise," he makes a telling comparison when he talks about trying to cope with the terrorist attacks.

"I will put all this somewhere in the inner reaches of my brain," he says, "in a special place reserved for Hitler, and for my raging father, for fire and flood and earthquake, for everything that defined jeopardy in my life."

Later in the film, he says, "Those of us who felt ourselves in jeopardy as children feel ourselves all the more in jeopardy as adults in the face of crisis. Those fortunate people who had 'Leave It to Beaver' childhoods have a solid sense of 'this will work out OK.'

"Not once in my life have I ever thought that anything would work out OK."

Apartment

In "My Old Lady," a 50-year-old burnout named Mathias inherits an apartment in Paris. But in a uniquely French transaction, he also inherits the mother and daughter who live in the building. They expose him to the best and worst of his father and force him to decide whether he will let his father's flaws destroy his life.

Horovitz says part of his own efforts to escape the pain of his childhood was finding a sort of surrogate father.

In the late 1960s, he was already a success with plays that included "The Indian Wants the Bronx," which helped make the careers of Al Pacino and John Cazale. AP

PEPPER has worked steadily since his breakthrough role as the scripture-spouting sniper in the 1998 Oscar-winning movie, "Saving Private Ryan."

AP

Barry Pepper sailed a roundabout course to his first lead role

By Douglas J. Rowe

NEW YORK—In his latest movie, Barry Pepper plays a guy who keeps getting doors slammed in his face when he goes for job interviews. Now THAT'S acting!

Breakthrough role

The 32-year-old actor has worked steadily since his breakthrough role as the Southern, Scripture-spouting sniper in Steven Spielberg's 1998 Oscar-winning film, "Saving Private Ryan."

Even the abysmal "Battlefield Earth" in 2000 didn't ground his career—and he's avoided typecasting.

"Whatever roles you hit out of the park, those are the pitches that will be served up to you the next time around," says Pepper, who received an Emmy nomination for playing Roger Maris in "61*" (the Billy Crystal-directed HBO cable TV movie last year).

But he has had some change-of-pace pitches coming up to the plate. This year alone, he can be seen as a Vietnam-era reporter ("We Were Soldiers"), a mafioso's son ("Knockaround Guys") and a Wall Street hotshot (Spike Lee's upcoming "The 25th Hour").

14 interviews

"Knockaround Guys" is his first feature-film lead. Pepper's Matty Demaret is more like a knocked-around guy as he tries to go straight. The son of Brooklyn gangster Benny Chains (Dennis Hopper), Matty goes on 14 interviews only to find "I get cold feet everytime my father's name is mentioned."

He finally decides to rise in the family business, transporting $500,000 in cash for his father. But the money gets waylaid in a small Montana town with a corrupt sheriff (Tom Noonan); so Matty and three other young urban hoods (Vin Diesel, Seth Green and Andrew Davoli) walk into the one-horse town and try to bully their way through. Things don't turn out to be so easy, even when Matty's uncle (John Malkovich) shows up.

Looking for a new approach for a gangster movie, writer-directors Brian Koppelman and David Levien came up with the idea of taking the wiseguys far from familiar territory. The result comes across as a hybrid of "Fargo," "Lone Star" and "Goodfellas."

"It's a fresh look at the genre, I think," says Pepper, who grew up mostly in British Columbia and still spends a lot of time there.

Production on the movie started in September 1999 and wrapped later that year. It's been on the shelf since then.

"I thought 'Sopranos' would steal a little of our thunder, because when we first filmed it 'Sopranos' was just in its infancy," says Pepper, wearing a leather jacket, goatee and long shaggy hair for an interview in New York.

At this point, he says hopefully: "Maybe rather than stealing our thunder, 'Sopranos' has sort of paved the way for us."

Acting career

Pepper's way to an acting career was even more roundabout than his new movie's path to theaters.

When he was 5, his father finished building a 50-foot sloop, the Moonlighter, and for two years Pepper, his two older brothers and their parents lived on the boat, sailing around the coastal waters of Canada, the United States and Mexico. They then spent three years in the South Pacific, landing in Hawaii, Tonga, Fiji and New Zealand, among other places.

Pepper was educated by correspondence courses and "by the many diverse cultures, races and religions and ways of life that you're exposed to."

The enduring lesson?

"I think just being able to live as a family of five in a 50-foot-by-14-foot space for five years and not kill each other," he says, laughing.

After graduating from high school back on the terra firma of Campbell River, British Columbia, Pepper wanted to get into graphic design. But he and the school were not a good fit.

Art school

"In my mind, I was already in second- or third-year art school. And they needed me to complete first year before they would graduate me to second. You know what I mean?" he says, chuckling.

"It was a very strange kind of program. They had us blindfolded and fingerpainting . . . taking us back to childhood. And I just couldn't stomach it. I really wanted to just learn how to be a graphic designer. I really wanted to learn the modern tools of the trade. I didn't really care why Van Gogh cut his ear off." *AP*

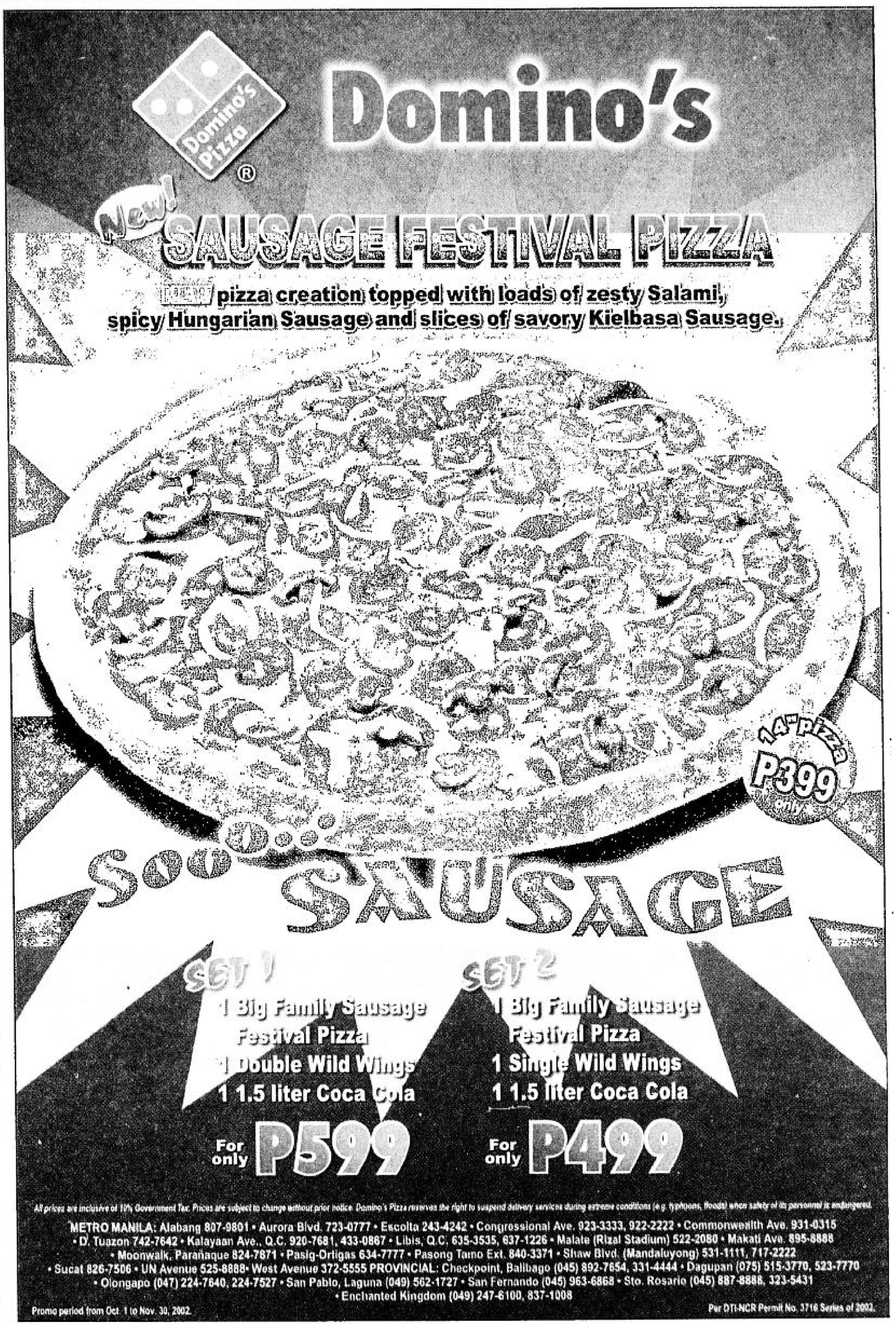
Martin Nievera . . .

From page G6

sold in other Southeast Asian countries.

MCA Universal's managing director, Ramon Chuaying, adds that the recording company's prized local talent would also do duets with some of the region's popular female singers. The announcement visibly thrills Martin. This could be the start of Martin's cherished dream of going international.

"I've been totally blessed," he beams. "But every day still feels like Day One. I love what I do. Music makes me alive. I haven't peaked yet. I'm chasing time, but I won't allow time to chase me."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Sooo... SAUSAGE
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3716 Series of 2002.

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Goods in Kind: Send to either GMA 7 Foundation, Inc Attention: Ms. Menchie Silvestre at 928-4209 or 920-7021 to 24 loc 310/287; or ABS – CBN Foundation, Inc. Attention: Mr. Henry Pojo at 411-0840/416-0387.

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TABANG MINDANAW
INQUIRER

Martin Nievera chases time

By Jocelyn Valle

BRIAN McKnight nearly steals the thunder from Martin Nievera during the launch of the Concert King's new CD under MCA Universal's Polyeast label, "Chasing Time." After singing a few lines of "The Sorry Song," Martin points to the wide screen and Brian appears to carry on with the number, while playing the piano.

McKnight goes Pinoy

Martin tells the audience to listen intently as Brian starts crooning in Filipino. The American R&B star looks like he's performing one of his hits, and the crowd cheers.

Unfortunately, "The Sorry Song" is not heard in "Chasing Time." "It was submitted to us one week late," explains Martin. "Because Brian wanted to produce it himself. We recorded it in his own studio."

Edith Gallardo wrote the Filipino lyrics, but it was Martin who helped Brian sing them right. "It was like the blind leading the blind," quips the Hawaii-raised singer, referring to his non-mastery of our language even after two decades of living here.

The good news is, Martin declares, "The Sorry Song" will be included in the second volume of "Chasing Time." Having two new albums, he adds, is his way of celebrating his 20 years in the music business.

Moreover, Brian's four other compositions are present in the first volume of "Chasing Time"—"Never Say Goodbye," "Over," "All The Way" and "Thank You for Saving My Life," which is a duet featuring the fabulous voices of Martin and Brian.

Black singer

To do justice to Brian's songs, Martin tries to sing like a black R&B singer. "It took me a long time to learn it," he says, winking to the audience that modern recording technology actually did the trick.

"He's a really nice guy," remarks Martin of Brian. "He loves the Philippines." Brian has been in the country three times, and during his last visit, he appeared on the Madman's "Late@Nite" TV show.

Realizing that they shared the same zest for music and songwriting, Brian promised on the air that he would contribute songs for his new friend's album. That's how the two talented artists' musical relationship began.

Also worth checking out in Martin's new recording are the original works of fine Filipino songwriters—George Canseco and Louie Ocampo's "Nasaan Ka Man," Moy Ortiz and Edith Gallardo's "Isang Saglit, Isang Sandali," Andrei Estrada's "Sana," Ben Escasa and Martin's "True Love," Ricky Sanchez's "Habang Ikaw ay Narito," and the title track by Ocampo (with additional Spanish lyrics by Martin's mom Conchita Razon and sister Gina Godinez).

Martin's version

And to complete the collection, Martin dishes out his version of Chuck Mangione's "Love is Stronger Far Than We" and Randy Goodrum's "Love."

Since "Chasing Time" was delivered in music bars on the first week of October, it has sold 15,000 units. Soon, it will also be

MARTIN/ G5

NIEVERA. Coming out with two new albums is his way of celebrating his 20 years in the music business.

BUONG BANSA!
LIPAT NA SA PLDT!
Dahil pinakamasaya sa pinakamalaki!

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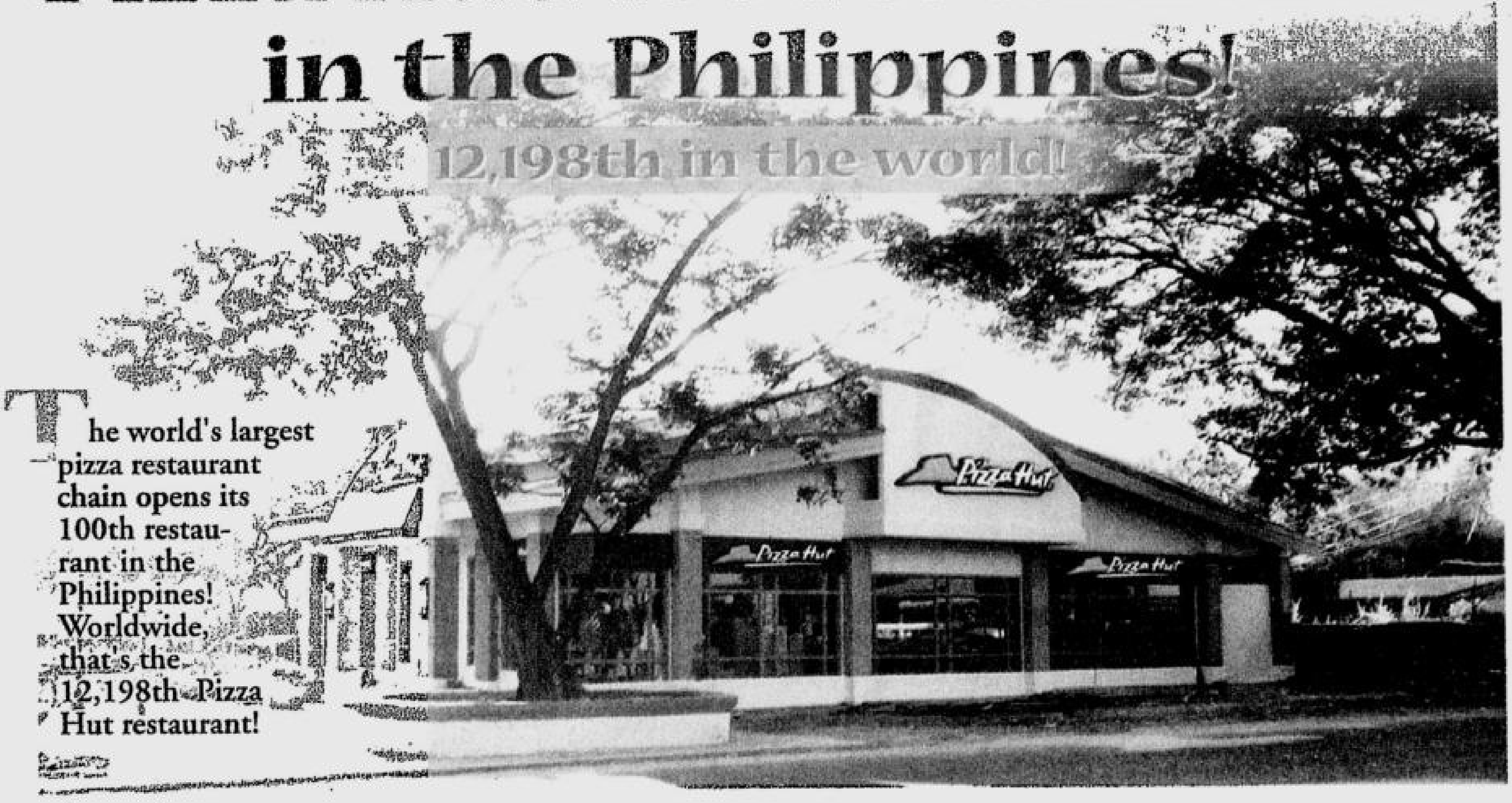
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SPECIAL PIZZA REPORT

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2002

Pizza Hut: 100 restaurants in the Philippines!

12,198th in the world!



The world's largest pizza restaurant chain opens its 100th restaurant in the Philippines! Worldwide, that's the 12,198th Pizza Hut restaurant!

The home of Pizza Hut's 100th restaurant is Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac, one of the strongest industrial centers in Central Luzon.

Philippine Pizza Inc., the franchise owner and operator of Pizza Hut, with its 100 restaurants is committed to growth not just in Manila and Cebu but in provinces like Cagayan De Oro, Davao and Pampanga, where Pizza Hut has received such a warm welcome.

Of course, all over in the Philippines – as a matter of fact all over the world – Pizza Hut provides its customers with the same uncompromising quality and excellence. With everything top-of-the-line from the perfect crust ingredients to the strictest service standards, true pizza aficionados have learned that the words "great pizza" is synonymous with "Pizza Hut pizza."

In fact, Pizza Hut has reaped accolades from industry experts worldwide. Its products have been voted number one in countless consumer surveys and its accomplishments as an innovative business leader have been cited by respected publications such as *Fortune*, *USA Today* and *The Wall Street Journal*. For ten of the last twelve years, Pizza Hut was named Best Pizza Chain in America in the "Choice in Chains" national consumer survey published annually by Restaurants & Institutions Magazine. It is the recognized leader of the US$25 billion pizza category and has been since 1971.

Here at home, Pizza Hut was recently voted as the Best Pizza Place and Best Pizza Delivery in the Philippines.

Pizza Hut isn't stopping with restaurant no. 100. This is just the beginning.

Pizza Hut is a subsidiary of Yum! Brands, Inc., the largest restaurant company in the world with its five core concepts, Pizza Hut, KFC, Taco Bell, A&W and Long John Silvers.

> ... the recognized leader of the US$25 billion pizza category worldwide, Pizza Hut was recently voted Best Pizza Place and Best Pizza Delivery.

Weekend Activities

LUISITA CENTER, TARLAC

OCTOBER 19

11:00 am
Ribbon Cutting, Blessing and Giant Pizza Cutting

2:00 pm
Motorcade around Tarlac Citywith the Bb. Pilipinas beauty queens and vintage car owners.

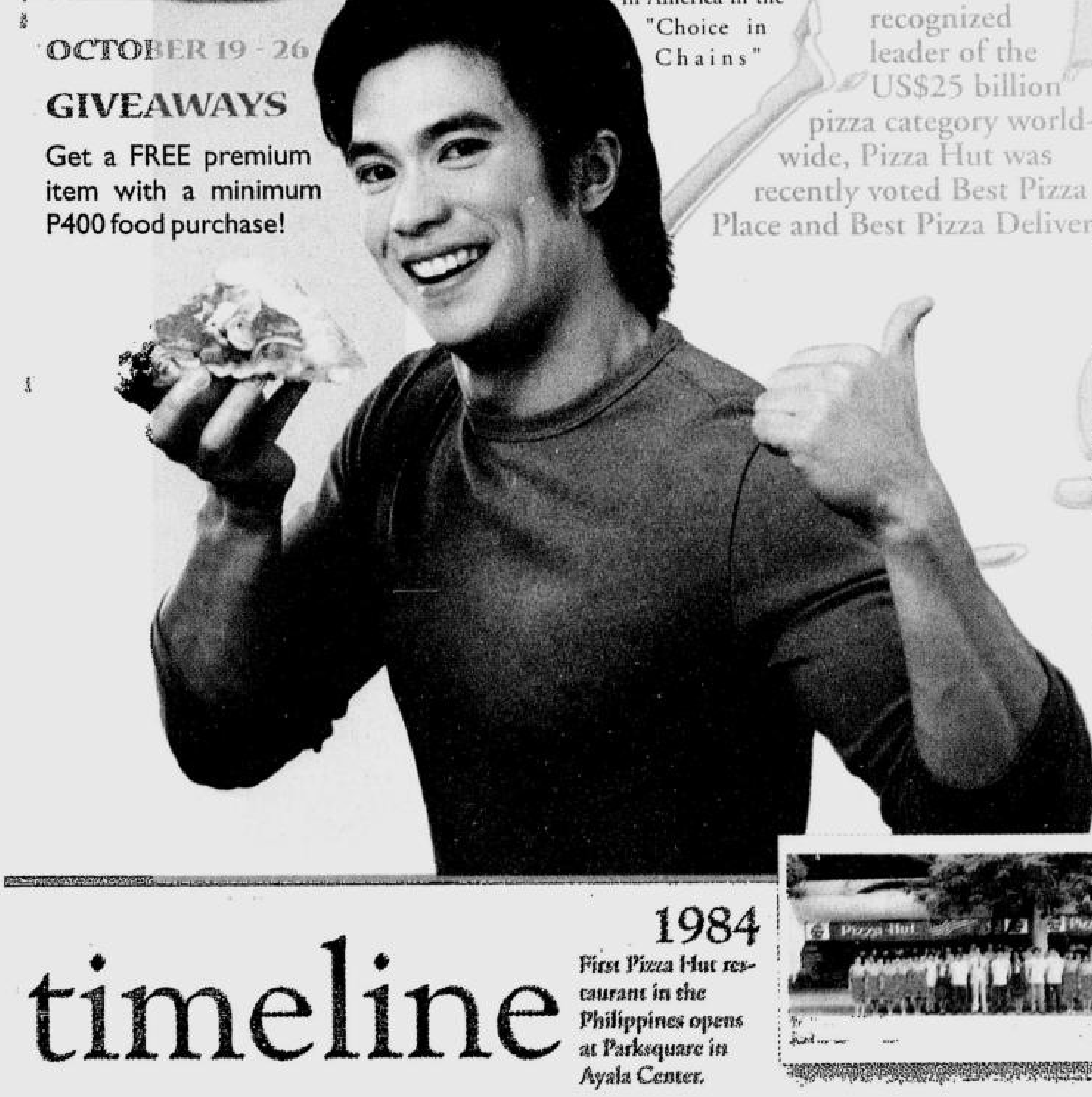
3:00 pm
Variety Show featuring special guests Diether Ocampo, Angelica Panganiban, Carlo Aquino and other celebrities. Free admission!

VINTAGE CAR EXHIBIT
A one-day exhibit of classic vintage automobiles.

KIDDIE PLAYPEN
A special treat for the little ones! Have fun in our obstacle course. Play-all-you-want inside an inflatable kiddie castle!

OCTOBER 19 - 26

GIVEAWAYS
Get a FREE premium item with a minimum P400 food purchase!



P100 Pizza?
Believe it!

Pizza Hut sure knows how to party! In celebration of its 100th restaurant in Hacienda Luisita, Tarlac, Pizza Hut is practically giving away its world-famous Pan Pizza at only P100.

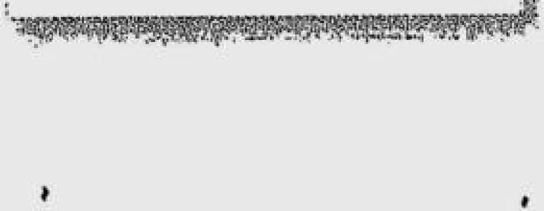
From today until November 4, Pizza Hut Pan Pizza (regular size) flavors in Hawaiian Supreme, Bacon Cheeseburger Lovers, and Pepperoni and Mushroom will be available for only P100 at all Pizza Hut stores (dine-in) nationwide.

Launched in commemoration of its 100th restaurant in the Philippines, the P100 Pan Pizza deal is sure to turn pizza lovers everywhere wild with delight at this never-to-be-repeated opportunity.

There's no other time like now. Go to the nearest Pizza Hut restaurant or call *911-11-11* to grab a bite of that world-famous Pan Pizza.

timeline

1984
First Pizza Hut restaurant in the Philippines opens at Parksquare in Ayala Center.



Manila falls in love with the original Pan Pizza.

Pizza Hut offers Personal Pan Pizza for lunch.

1989
Pizza Hut launches delivery service

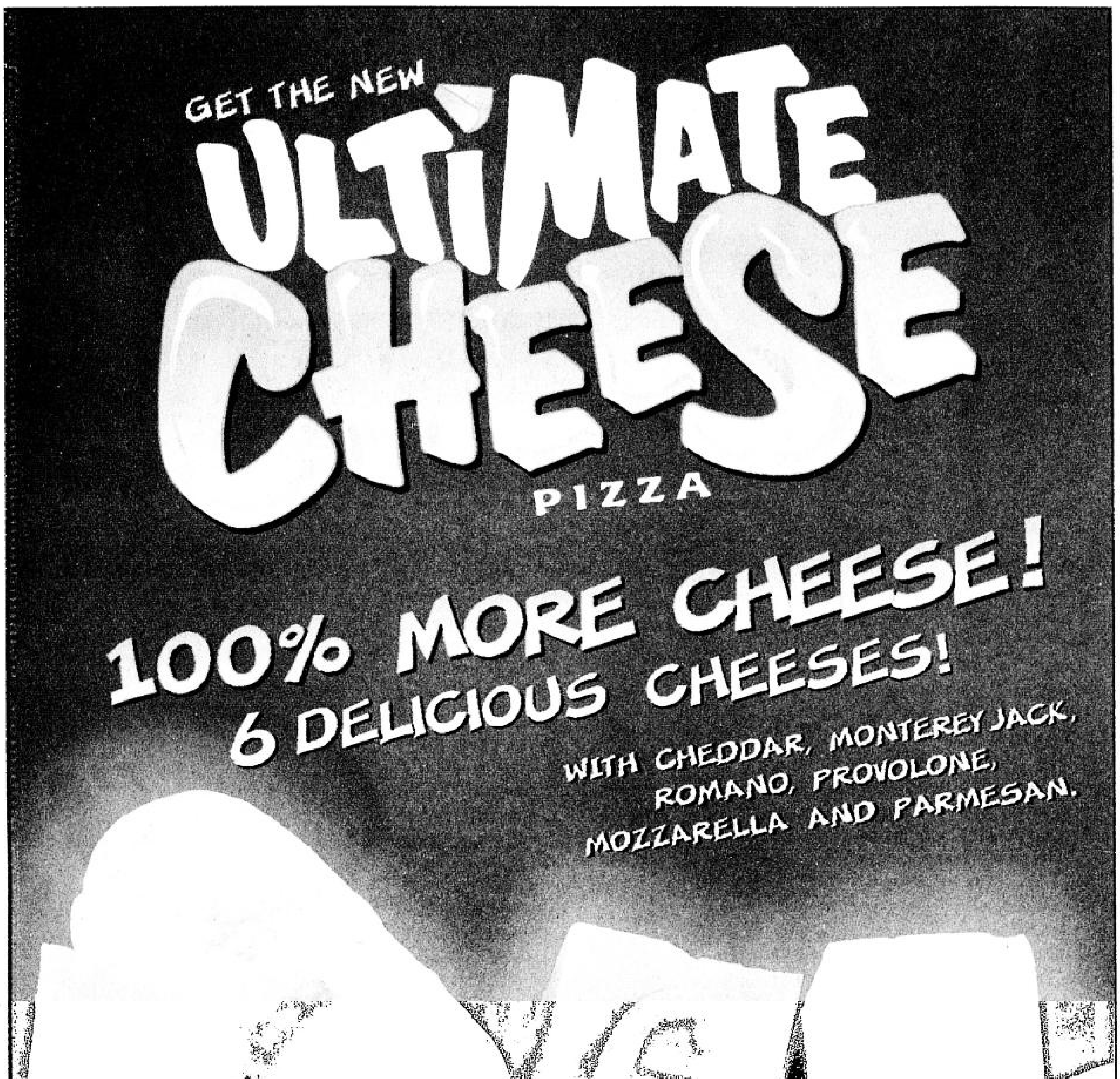
Over 2 million pizzas a year –DELIVERED!

A pioneer is ingenious, innovative, and inventive. And Pizza Hut has proven itself to be exceptional in all qualities with its unequaled delivery system. Imagine, it was able to deliver an unbelievable 2 million pizzas in a year!

Pizza Hut's secret to being the undisputed leader in the food delivery segment is its industry-leading initiative of the one-number delivery system. If *911* is America's emergency hotline, *911-11-11* is the Filipinos' Pizza Hut emergency number.

In 30 minutes or less, Pizza Hut is able to deliver fresh and piping hot pizzas to the homes of its loyal patrons through its own call service center (CSC), which was established in 1997, long before call centers became the hottest thing in town. Staffed by 120 well-trained and experienced customer representatives, Pizza Hut's CSC averages 10,000 calls a day.

Once orders are taken and dispatched, Pizza Hut's more than 600 riders, easily the largest delivery fleet in the country, are on their way to carry the same great pizza Pizza Hut serves under its roof to the customer's own home.



GET THE NEW
ULTIMATE CHEESE PIZZA
100% MORE CHEESE!
6 DELICIOUS CHEESES!
WITH CHEDDAR, MONTEREY JACK, ROMANO, PROVOLONE, MOZZARELLA AND PARMESAN.
Pizza Hut
Visit us or call 911-11-11 now!
The Best Pizzas Under One Roof!

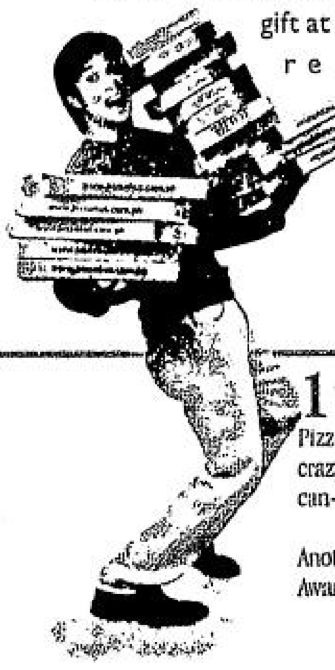
Pizza Hut + PEPSI Palm Card =

PALM CARD
Thank You!

Pizza Hut, the world largest pizza restaurant chain, says thanks to its countless customers who have loyally chosen to patronize Pizza Hut by practically giving away Hawaiian pizzas through the Palm Card promo.

Buy a Palm Card for just P200 and with every purchase of any Pizza Hut pizza and a Pepsi, the Palm Card bearer gets a free Hawaiian pizza of the same size! And the best thing about the Palm card deal is you can use the card for an unlimited number of times for six months.

So hurry and get your Palm Card gift at the Pizza Hut restaurant near you.



timeline

1990

Pizza Hut wins RBD Excellence, Training Excellence, Best Marketing Plan and Best Marketing Campaign from YUM Brands in Phuket, Thailand.

1991

Pizza Hut Delta and UE Recto garner Outstanding Achievement in Highest Delivery Volume and Outstanding Achievement in Traditional Restaurant Sales Growth respectively in Orlando, Florida.

1992

Pizza-hungry Filipinos go crazy over Pizza Hut's all-you-can-eat pizza promo.

Another Training Excellence Award for Pizza Hut

MESSAGES

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

My cordial greetings to the management and staff of Pizza Hut Philippines on the opening of your 100th Restaurant in Hacienda Luisita, Tarlac City.

I commend your company for its respectable growth over the years. Your achievement bespeaks of the Filipino's creativity, industry and entrepreneurial spirit. It also reflects the continued dynamism of marketing entities in our country. Your achievements along with many other industrial entities complement our government's efforts in creating a vibrant business environment.

Your contribution is vital to our country's economic growth and to our aspiration for sustainable human development. I therefore call on you to continue helping our Administration achieve its development goals. Let us continue our work together in building a strong Republic founded on productivity, employment opportunities, cooperation and innovative business initiatives.

MABUHAY!

GMArroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

PHILIPPINE PIZZA INC.

Today, we proudly open the doors of the 100th Pizza Hut restaurant in the Philippines at Luisita, Tarlac City.

To the millions of customers who visit our Pizza Hut restaurants each year, my warmest thank you for your patronage through the years.

I am particularly proud of our 3,000 fellow team memberss, restaurant general managers, and executives who work day and night to give you, our customers,the world's greatest pizzas, legendary service, and great value.

Because of you, Pizza Hut was recently voted "Best Pizza Place" and "Best Pizza Delivery" among all other restaurants in the Philippines.

You have made us number one and we hope you will continue to make us your only choice for great pizzas by continuing to patronize each of our restaurants from Baguio to Davao.

For our part, we renew our unswerving commitment to continue serving you by opening more Pizza Huts throughout the Philippines.

Mabuhay and YUM to you!

(Sgd.)
JORGE L. ARANETA
Chairman & President
Philippine Pizza Inc.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY

Congratulations to Pizza Hut for the opening of its 100th restaurant in Hacienda Luisita, Tarlac City on October 19, 2002.

The continuing existence of your company for the past 18 years is a manifestation of how your brand can never stop to satisfy the Filipino's discriminating appetite.

Your leadership in the pizza restaurant market has become an inspiration not only to its patrons but also to its competitors as well in these trying times. The establishment of another Pizza Hut in this historic land of Hacienda Luisita, a place close to my heart, will definitely add value to this locality famed for its warmth and hospitality.

Your trust in Tarlac by establishing the latest addition to your chain of restaurants in its prime commercial center speaks volume of your public commitment and social responsibility.

BENIGNO S. AQUINO III
Congressman, 2nd District, Tarlac

YUM BRANDS INTERNATIONAL

Cheers to Pizza Hut Philippines!

This milestone is truly a cause for grand celebration for it can only mean one thing: more and more Filipinos can now enjoy the world famous pizzas of the world's largest restaurant chain.

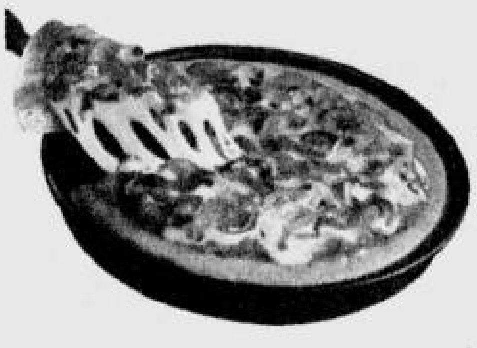
For us, the 100th restaurant in the Philippines is a good indication of the growth that has characterized Pizza Hut worldwide. Indeed, Pizza Hut Philippines has set a record of strong profit gains and sales increases which reflects Pizza Hut's uncompromising drive in running great restaurants and making our customers happy.

I am sure you will be building more restaurants to make it even more convenient for your customers to taste our great pizzas in the years to come!

Congratulations and keep up the good work. Yum... yum... yum, yum!

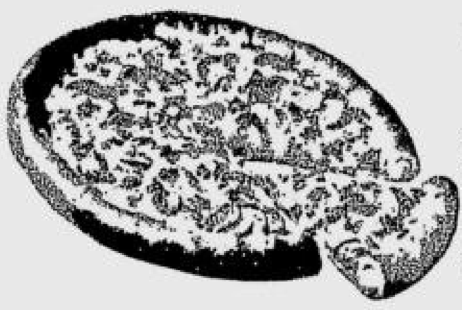
ART RAUTIO
VP, Managing Director
Yum Brands, Asia Pacific

The Best Pizzas Under One Roof!



PAN PIZZA

The pizza that has made Pizza Hut famous! Now with 50% More Toppings and Cheese! Baked fresh when you order, our Pan Pizza is light and fluffy on the inside, crisp and crunchy on the outside. It has two layers of 100% imported natural mozzarella cheese with your favorite toppings served piping hot in the pan.



Stuffed Crust PIZZA

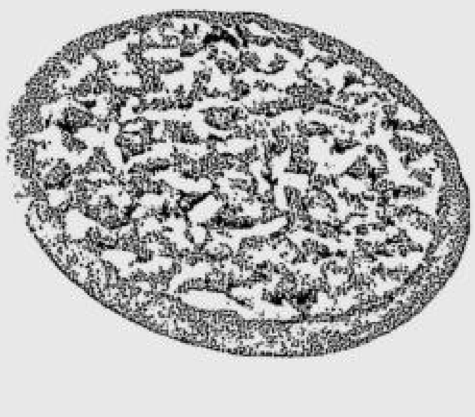
So good, you'll eat it backwards! It's got a ring of melt-in-your-mouth cheese baked right in a crust that's laced with a hint of garlic butter.

CHEESY CRUST

For the ultimate cheese indulgence there's Cheesy Crust! It has loads of crispy cheddar on a mozzarella Stuffed Crust.

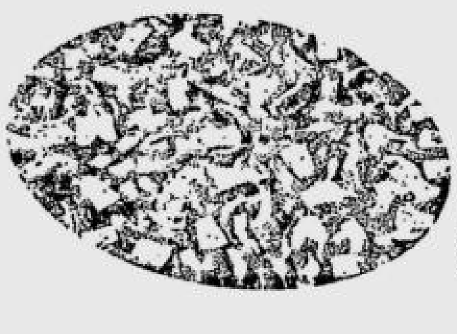
DOUBLE Stuffed Crust PIZZA

32 juicy pepperoni slices and rich creamy mozzarella baked in the crust.



NEW AMERICAN Classic

An American-size pizza made with soft dough and topped with lots of toppings. If you're looking for genuine American pizzas and more bite for your buck, this one's the real thing.



THE EDGE PIZZA

Crazy for more toppings? Craving for a crunchier crust? Searching for something different? There's only one place to go: The Edge.

Pizza Hut: One of the World's Best Brands

Here's another reason why Pizza Hut has no qualms in saying it is number one.

In a special report by Business Week, the world's largest business magazine, Pizza Hut ranked as one of the top 100 best brands in the world.

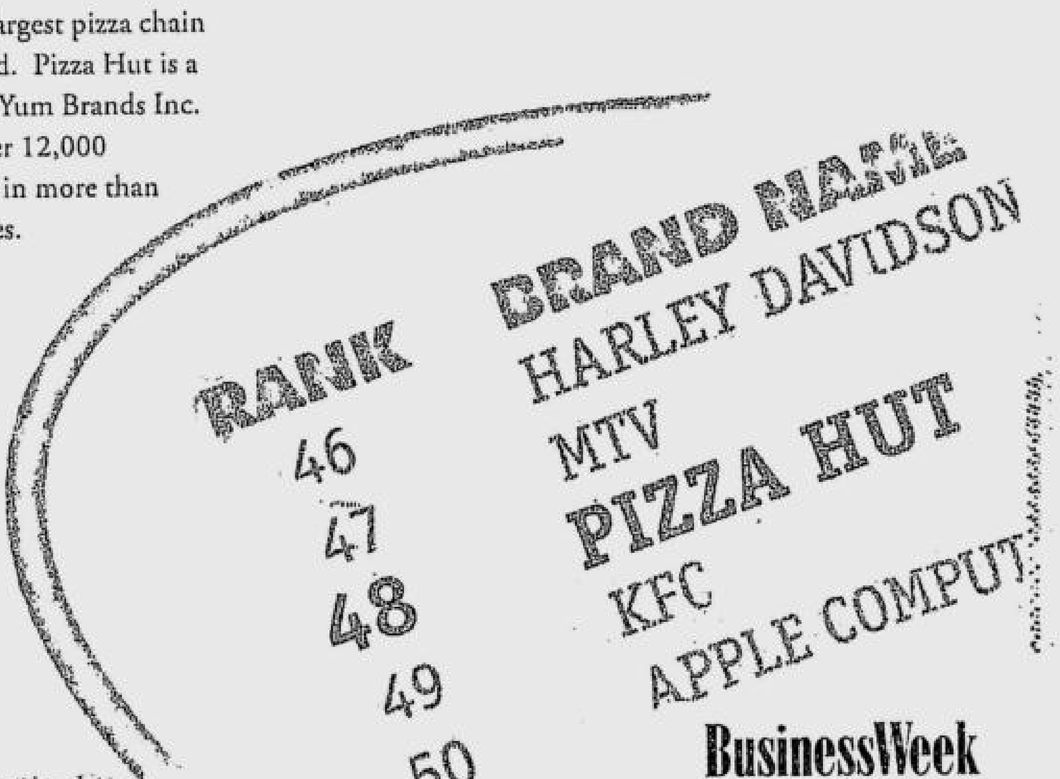
BusinessWeek reported on Interbrand's annual ranking of 100 of "The World's Most Valuable Brands" in its August 6, 2002 issue, placing Pizza Hut at number 48 (right after MTV). It was the only pizza restaurant on the list that included brand names such as Microsoft, Disney, and Pepsi.

How did Pizza Hut qualify in the ranking? Pizza Hut was selected according to two criteria: Brands had to be global in nature, deriving 20% or more of sales from outside their home country, and they also had to have publicly available marketing and financial data on which to base the evaluation.

The BusinessWeek and Interbrand report added that while advertisements strengthen the brands' position, it is actually the company's performance and the employees that have a firm grip when it comes to influencing consumers' tastes.

"If employees are motivated to reflect the core brand values in all their activities and that radiates out to customers, and on to friends and family, such word-of-mouth endorsements-which in the Internet era can circle the globe instantly-can be far more convincing than any marketing campaign," BusinessWeek reported

Pizza Hut is the recognized leader in the US$25 billion pizza category and is the largest pizza chain in the world. Pizza Hut is a division of Yum Brands Inc. and has over 12,000 restaurants in more than 90 countries.



RANK	BRAND NAME
46	HARLEY DAVIDSON
47	MTV
48	PIZZA HUT
49	KFC
50	APPLE COMPUT

BusinessWeek

1993

Pizza Hut opens its 25th restaurant in the country at Gov. Forbes in Sampaloc.

1994

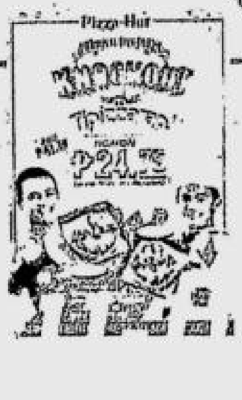
Soccer legend Pele opens Pizza Hut's 10,000th store in the world in Sao Paolo, Brazil by kicking a ball through Pizza Hut's doors.

OWN A PELE SIGNATURE BALL!
10

1997

Pizza Hut ushers in a new era in delivery with its innovative one-number delivery system, 911-11-11, the first in the industry.

Olympic silver medalist Onyok Velasco becomes a member of the Pizza Hut family.

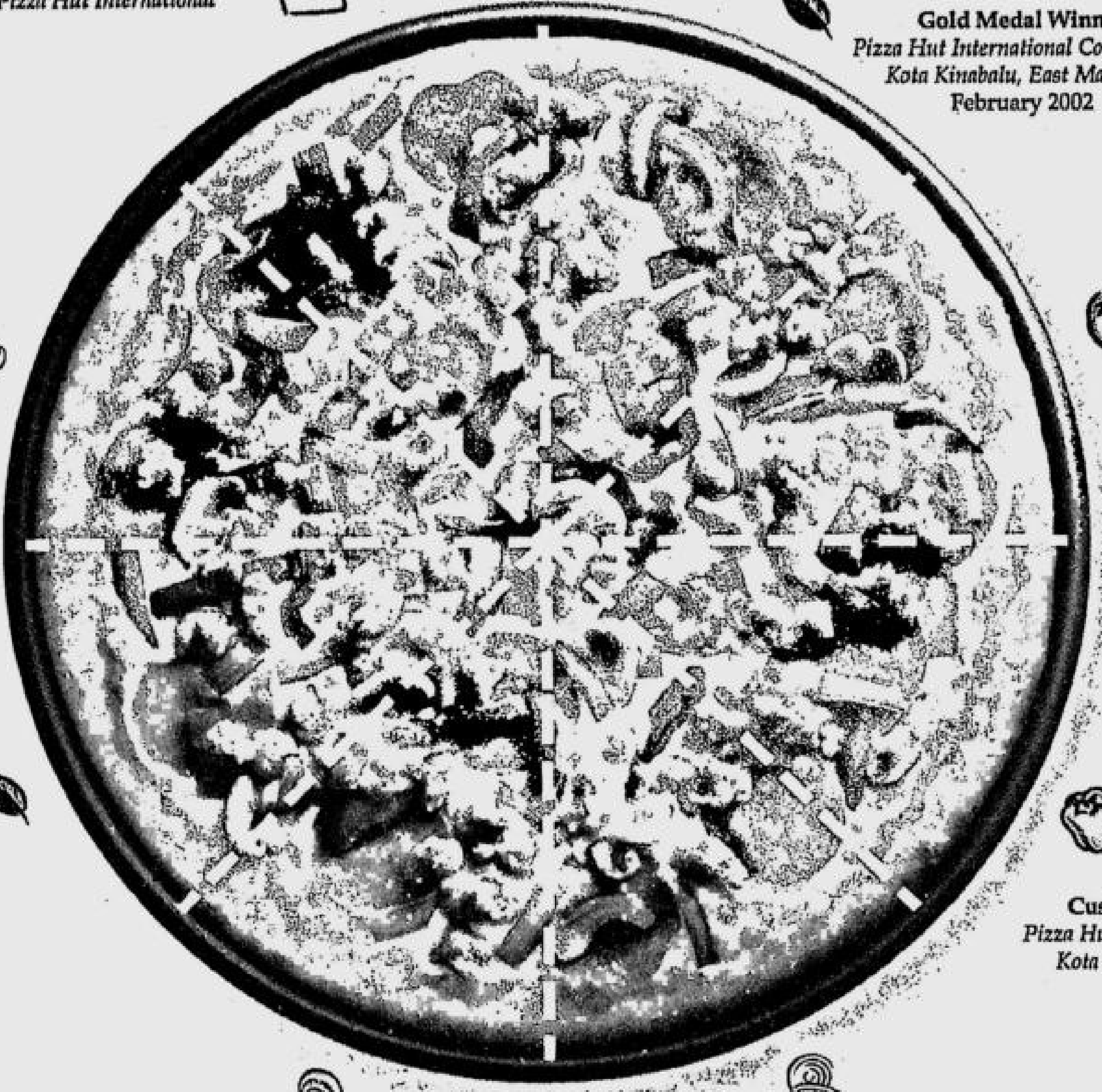


1998

Philippine equestrienne Asian Games gold winner Mikee Cojuangco is Pizza Hut's newest endorser for Pizza Mia.

THE WORLD'S BEST PIZZA COMPANY

AND IN THE PHILIPPINES...



2001 Franchisee of the Year
Pizza Hut International

Gold Medal Winner
Pizza Hut International Competition
Kota Kinabalu, East Malaysia
February 2002

Most Outstanding Pizza Brand
17th Annual Parangal ng Bayan & National Consumers Excellence Award

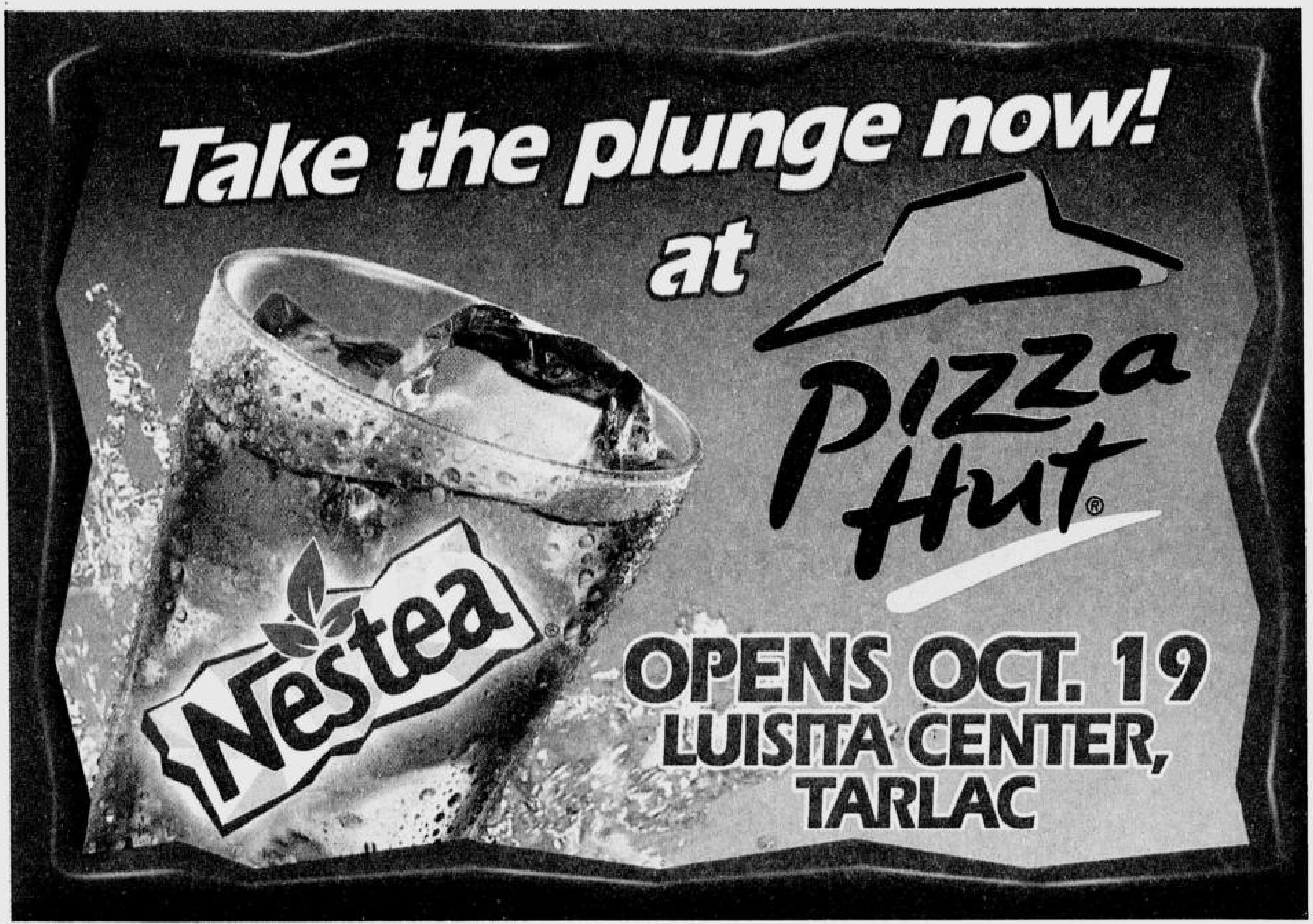
Best in Dough
Pizza Hut International Competition
Kota Kinabalu, East Malaysia
February 2002

Best Pizza Delivery
Philippine Star Text Poll
August 2001

Customer Mania Award
Pizza Hut International Competition
Kota Kinabalu, East Malaysia
February 2002

Restaurant Excellence Award 2001
Pizza Hut International

Marketing Excellence Award 2001
Pizza Hut International



The best pizzas because...

we use the choicest pineapple

Del Monte

we use the freshest meat

cdo

we use the yummiest food ingredients

caterplan

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JAKA FOODS CORP.
MEMBER JAKA GROUP

Superdough

Edward Keller (Philippines) Inc

Multi-M
Food Corporation

C.P.M

FOODS, INC.

Blue Dairy
CORPORATION

we serve the best beverages

Nestea

PEPSI

NUTRILICIOUS

we build the best restaurants

EBInc.

Electrical Balancer Inc.

ECOLAB

CYCLIC INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION

MARKGAS
CENTRUM

we work with the best people

/CBM

BBDO
GUERRERO
ORTEGA

we serve the best customers!
Thank you for all your support!

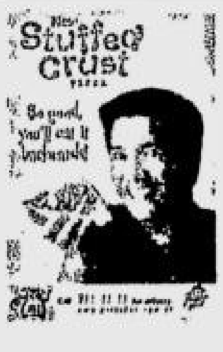
timeline

1999

Pizza Hut revolutionizes the industry by adding 50% more toppings and cheese on Pan Pizza at the same price.

2000

Pizza Hut launches the innovative Stuffed Crust Pizza and endorsed by movie hunk Diether Ocampo.


New
Stuffed Crust
PIZZA
So good, you'll eat it backwards!

2001

Pizza Hut introduces another innovation, Cheesy Crust, in the Philippines. Asia Pacific countries soon follow.

Double Stuffed Crust becomes a hit, too!

2002

Diether Ocampo becomes Pizza Hut's delivery rider for the launching of the American Classic Pizza.

Pizza Hut opens its 100th restaurant in the Philippines!

We're proud of you!

Junior INQUIRER

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2002 ✦ 12 PAGES ✦ VOLUME 7, NUMBER 3

WHAT'S INSIDE:

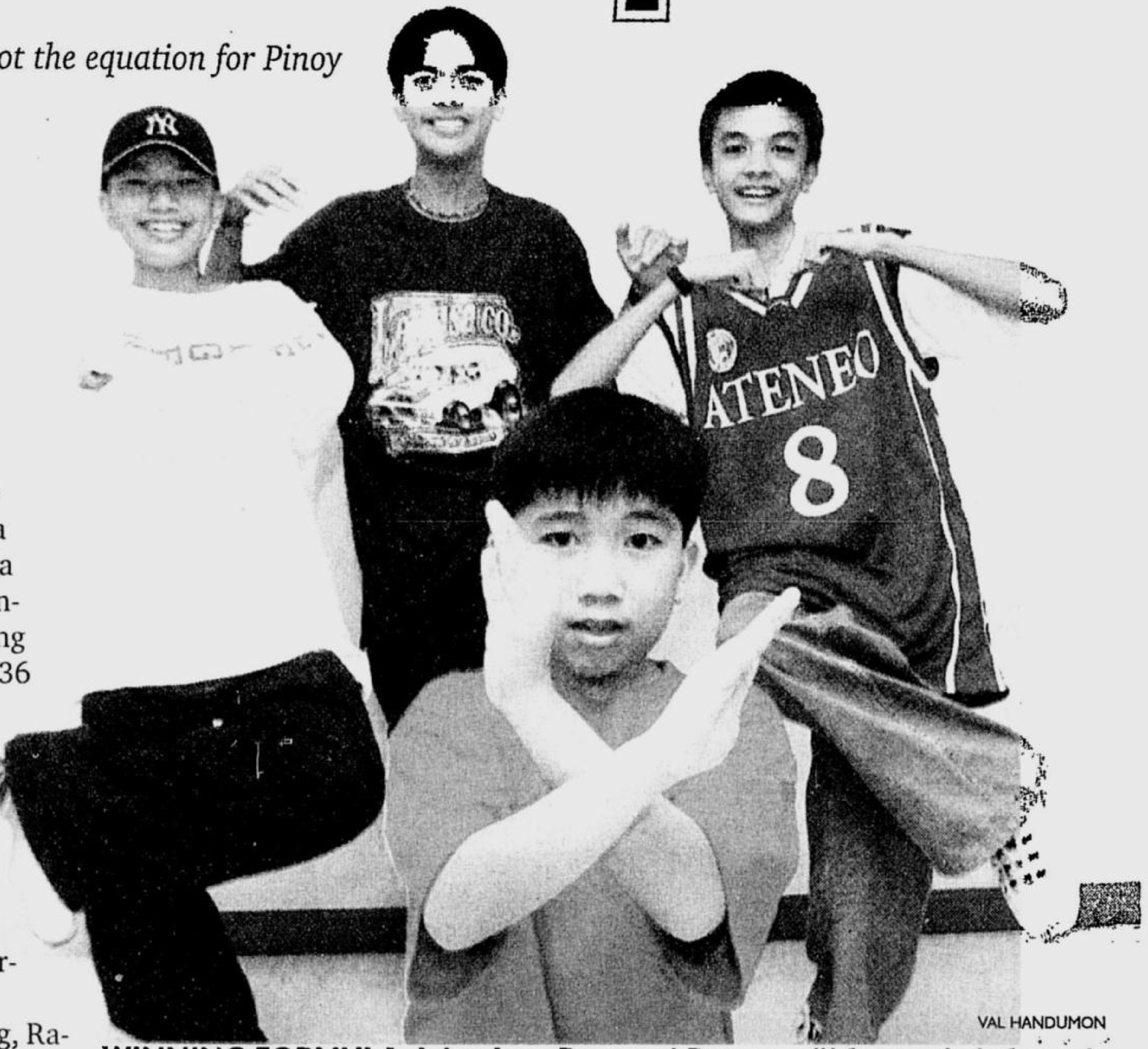
Floating Fish	Page 2
Story: A Nurse in War	Page 6
Outstanding Teacher	Page 9
Shirley's Pets	Page 11

HTTP://YOU.INQ7.NET/JI

The Math Squad

Multiply talent and training over time and you've got the equation for Pinoy math wiz kids

By Eline Santos


VAL HANDUMON

WINNING FORMULA. John, Leo, Paco and Ramon add fun to their formula for winning.

SIXTEEN math-savvy kids, accompanied by their biggest fans (their moms), did their country proud in the 6th Primary Math World Competitions held in Hong Kong last July 13 to 18, 2002.

The Metro Manila team composed of Paco Adajar (PAREF Southridge), John Carlos Clerigo and Leo Patrick Anthony Telosa (St. Benedict College-San Beda Alabang), and Ramon Iñigo Marfil (Ateneo de Manila University) brought home the third prize, behind Shenzen China Team as the overall champion, and Liaoning China Team as first runner-up. They competed against 36 teams from different countries, including USA, Australia, India, Bulgaria, Macao, China, Taiwan, Malaysia, Japan, South Africa, Mexico and Thailand.

Youngest team member, 11-year-old Paco Adajar said he felt "happy and thankful to God because without him we wouldn't have been so successful." The team members were also grateful to their trainers, parents, and schools.

Aside from winning third place in the overall standing, Ramon, Leo and John, together with Philippine team members Kyna Eli Cheu from Sacred Heart Academy-Cebu and Jan Monzon of La Salle Zobel were awarded 2nd honors in the individual competition category, while Jesreal Arcilla from Fil-Am School Town-Iloilo got 3rd honors.

Pressure

The successful RP team that went to Hong Kong also included Chiara Lanuza (Poveda Learning School), Miguel Medrano (La Salle Greenhills), John Bernard Ong (Grace Christian Academy), Oliver Gamboa (St. John Institute), Vergil Garcia (UPHR), Jana Yaptapnio (Corpus Christi), Nellie Chua (Chang Kai Shek), April Arroyo (Ateneo de Zamboanga) and Abigail Ceralde (Zamboanga Chong Hua High School).

With the pressure of competing with the world's best, the team couldn't help feeling nervous. "*Kailangan* relax *lang*," ("We had to learn how to relax.") Ramon advised. "Don't think of the pressure. *Parang* normal *lang*."

"I really prayed," shared Leo. "As time goes by and you answer the questions, you slowly become calm."

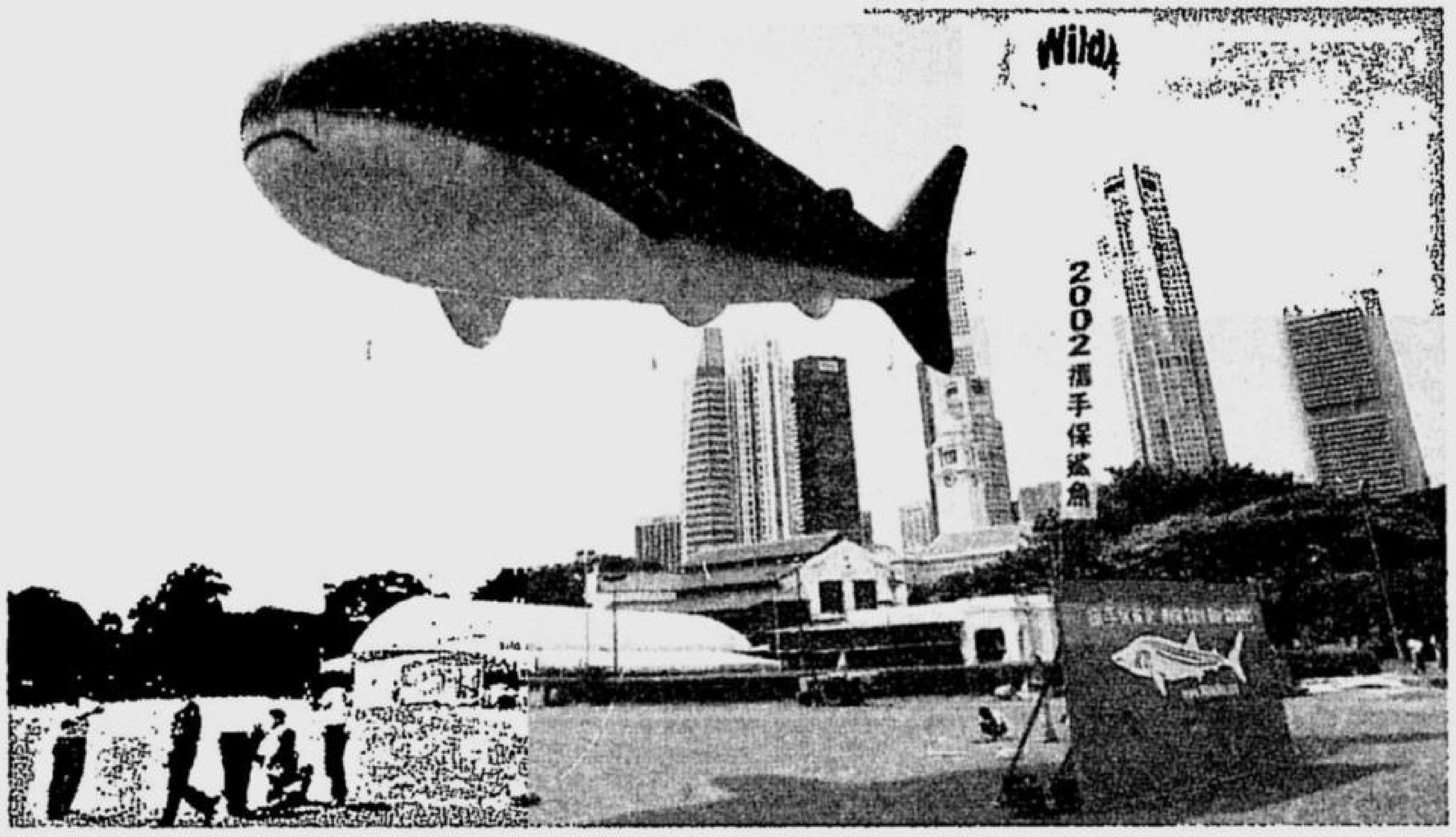
Moments: Fun and Unforgettable

Helping relieve the pressure was a healthy dose of fun. The team went around Hong Kong, the best part of which was "probably going to Ocean Park," said Paco. "We rode rides like the 'Abyss' and the 'Crazy Galleon.' In the Abyss, the ride goes up and then you drop! And then you go up again and then you drop again. It lasts only 20 seconds," Pa-

The Math Squad/ p. 4

World Scope

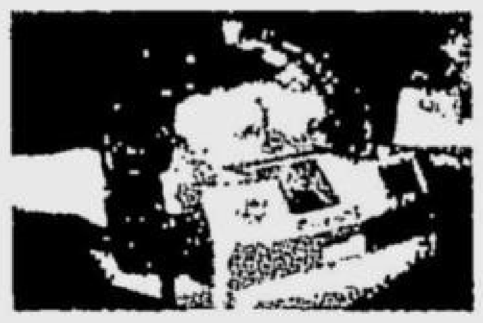
Pusan, South Korea
Tokyo, Japan
Singapore, Singapore



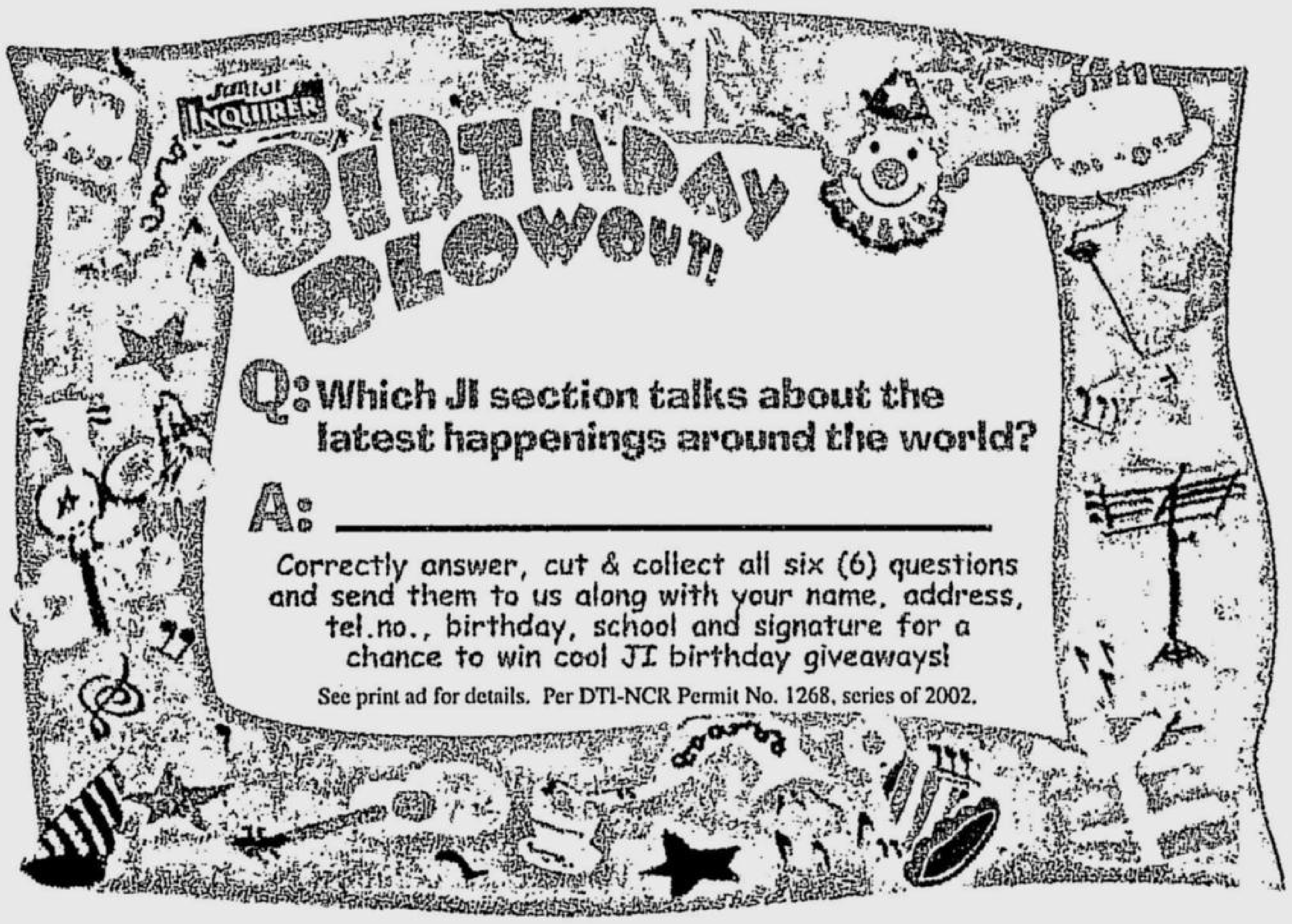
Wandering Whale Shark

ERRR, is that a flying whale? It sure is! It's a life-size whale shark balloon in front of the City Hall building in Singapore. The 15.24-meter balloon is touring the world to raise awareness about whale shark conservation and build international support to protect these vulnerable fish. The whale sharks are under threat due to new and growing markets for their meat and fins. *AFP*

Call that Robot!



WANT to check if your fish is behaving? Call the Maron 1 on your mobile phone and it'll take pictures of home and send them to you. This "walking" little robot by Japan's Fujitsu Laboratories Ltd. can also run electronic appliances, measures 32 x 36 x 32 centimeters and weighs 5 kilograms. The company plans to put the robot on the market for less than 200,000 yen ($1,666) within two years. *AP*

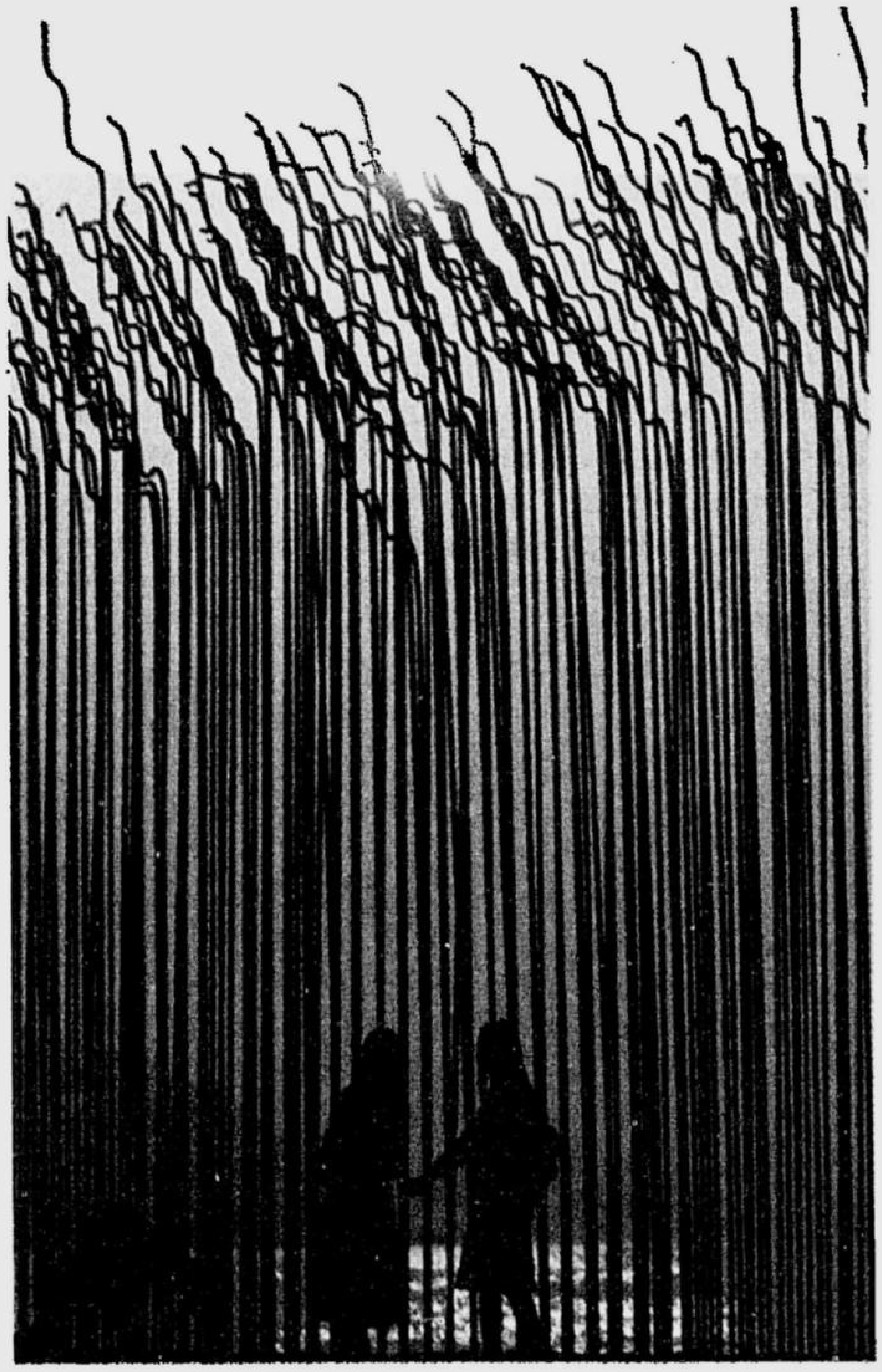

Junior Inquirer BIRTHDAY BLOWOUT!

Q: Which JI section talks about the latest happenings around the world?

A: ____________________

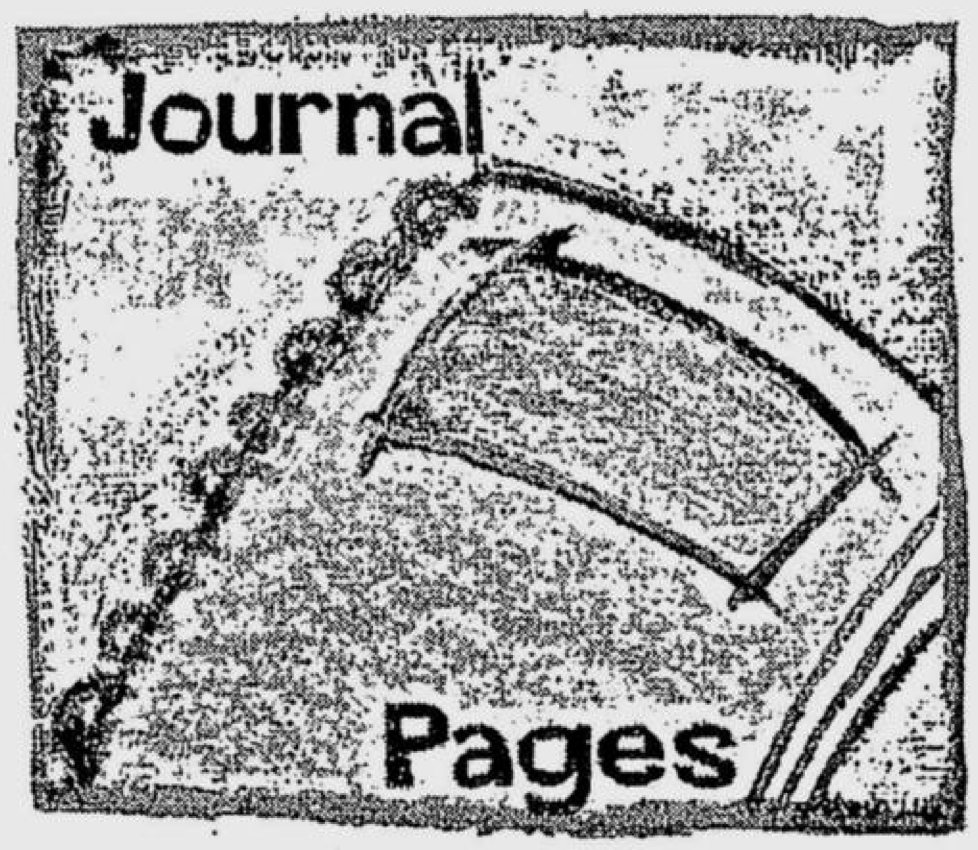
Correctly answer, cut & collect all six (6) questions and send them to us along with your name, address, tel.no., birthday, school and signature for a chance to win cool JI birthday giveaways!

See print ad for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1268, series of 2002.



Sea Inspirations

SOUTH Korean girls inspect one of a dozen sculptures installed along Pusan's Haeundae beach at sunrise. The artwork is part of Pusan's Biennale 2002 arts festival. The festival showcases work by South Korean artists with the event's theme being inspired by the sea. *Reuters*



My Mentor

By Carisse Sioson
St. Mary's Academy
Caloocan City

I'm a kid with the usual habits. Like most kids I know, I really don't like school that much. There were times I pretended to be sick just to avoid going to school. I don't do that anymore because of the inspiration of one special person.

I've always liked English. I don't speak the language often, but something about it is special to me.

The first time my new English teacher came in, I had the feeling that English would be deleted from my "Favorite Subjects" list. My classmates found her cool, vibrant, witty and nice. But I didn't.

Good thing I don't believe that "first impressions" last. On the third month of school, I found myself listening more intently to her lessons. I started to like her. I grew fond of her and even became friends with her. She made me love English more. She even taught me to face my fears and be confident with the things I do.

Now she's stopped teaching and has decided to take a break. Hopefully she'll be back next year, and I look forward to this.

I'm so lucky to know her. Hopefully, other students will also know the teachings, care, love, respect, trust and friendship she gave me. I look forward to the day when I become what I want to be and tell her that she taught me how to be the greatest I ought to be.

Sound Familiar ?

Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

Straight from JI Readers

You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **ji@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!

They Like Good News

DEAR Editor,

We would like to thank you for doing a fabulous job on Junior Inquirer. We may be a bit old to read JI, but I guess no one can be too old to read a newspaper as good as JI. That's because you feature many interesting facts and info. You can't have a bad time reading JI because all your news is good news. You have encouraged many young men and women to read newspapers via JI. Once again, thanks to you and your staff. You can always count on our support!—**BOYS OF II-MALIKHAIN**, Saint Mary's College, Quezon City

Dear II-Malikhain,

*Thanks for the vote of confidence! We're glad you like JI. All of us here humans, cats, dogs, Buddha bears, cockroaches, cows, ducks and worms work very hard to meet your Saturday morning reading needs. Keep reading, keep writing and don't forget to be kind to animals!—**The Editor***

Junior Inquirer

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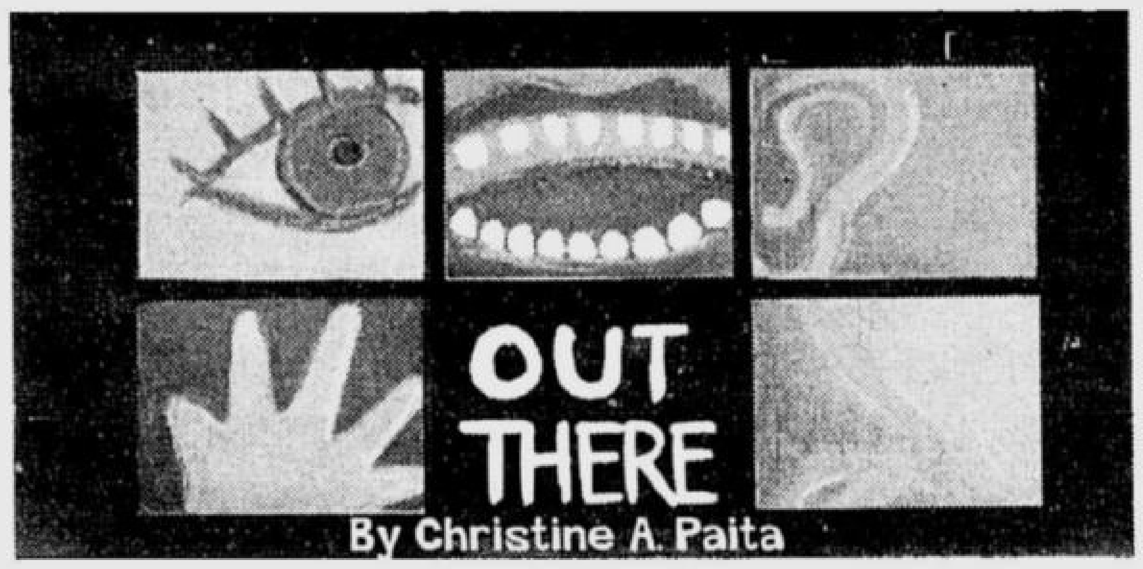


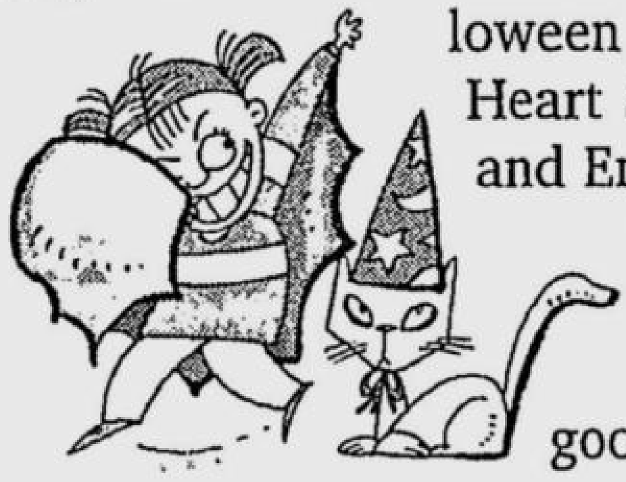
By Christine A. Paita

Got something for Out There? Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

Events

THIS MONTH AT MUSEO. It's United Nations Month, International Children's Month and National Museum Month at Museo Pambata! On Sunday, Oct. 20, at 2 p.m., make colorful bracelets using paper beads with volunteers from Salt and Light Organization. Kuya Guiller teaches clay animal art every Thursday. Preschoolers from Sta. Peregrina Learning Center will also perform on Oct. 26 at 2 p.m. with their musical band, Musikito.

To celebrate UN Month, there's an exhibit of toys, costumes and children's storybooks from various countries, performances and a workshop called WOW! (Words of the World). For more info, call Des at 523-1797 to 98.



HALLOWEEN PARTY. Come to Santuario de San Antonio Parish Hall on Monday, Oct. 28, at 2:30 p.m. Watch Jeff Simon's World of Magic and have fun trick or treating! It's a Halloween Party with Sacred Heart School-Forbes Park and Enchanted Kingdom. There will also be mascot appearances and lots of goodies. For inquiries and tickets, call 840-5493 or 840-2632 or visit Sacred Heart School at the 2nd Level, San Antonio Plaza Arcade, McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Contest

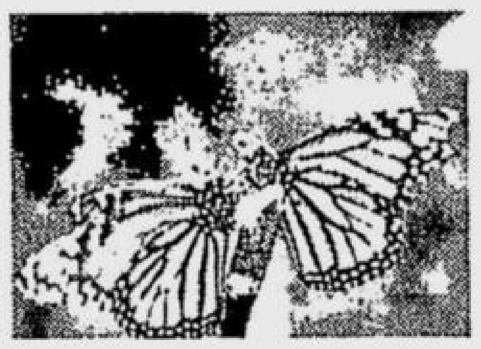
SCARY MASKS. Outlet Yard invites kids and adults to join "Maskara," a Halloween mask-making contest on Oct. 27 from 2-4 p.m. Participants must bring a P100 registration fee and their own materials. The spookier, the better! For more info, call 740-7221.

Theater

PINOCCHIO. Watch this well-loved classic at the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Tanghalang Huseng Batute. Playdates are on Oct. 19 and 26. The play will have morning and matinee performances at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Tickets are available at the CCP Box Office or through Ticketworld at 891-5610. The CCP is located at Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

Cable Picks

DEXTER'S EGO TRIP. Boy genius Dexter finds out he will save the world one day and invents a time machine to fastforward himself to the future. The fun begins when he lands on several time periods and meets Mandark's future versions. Can Dexter save the world? Join Dexter and his sister DeeDee in this time-warp adventure on Oct. 25 at 8 p.m. with encores on Oct. 26, 8-9 a.m., and Oct. 27, 8-9 p.m.



MONARCHS IN MEXICO. Witness the stunning fall migration of monarch butterflies to their winter resting grounds in Mexico. Watch "The Flight of the Monarch" on Oct. 22, at 11 p.m. on National Geographic Channel.

The Math Squad

(from page 1)

co smiled. "It's fun. Only the first drop was scary but the second one is not scary anymore."

During the contest itself, what they found most unforgettable were the questions that they missed. For Leo, "it was a special triangle of odd numbers. If I got the answer right, I would have had first honors. I answered 732, the correct answer was 733. It slipped my mind that there were only odd numbers and no even numbers."

But they concluded, "Let go of it, it's over. Next time, be more careful." Maybe a next time would mean even more honors?

For doing so well in Hong Kong, Ramon, Leo and John took an additional trip. They went to China with a different team in August, but this time the trio went without their parents.

"It was the first time we traveled abroad by ourselves," said Leo. "We could do whatever we wanted, go out of the hotel, stay out late."

"We played Counterstrike in China," said John. "We couldn't read the text because it was in Chinese. Everything, all the signs were in Chinese characters."

Recipe for Wiz Kids

It took a lot of hard work to have a lot of fun. About 10,000 students, the best from all over the country, took the qualifying exams at the Mathematics Trainers Guild of the Philippines. Those who passed the exams received training every Saturday.

From these students, around 400 were invited for an intensive in-house training which lasted three to four days. Left on their own without their parents, trainers assessed who would be sent to the international math competitions. The final 30 to 40 students then underwent summer training.

"You should be really interested and determined with a desire to win," said Ramon. "You need to sacrifice time." Summer training is done everyday, Mondays to Fridays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

But surprisingly, even a whole day session is sometimes not enough for these math lovers. MTG vice president Rechilde Villame said the kids even ask for an extension. "I send them home but they want more," so they stay until 7 p.m. "They were having fun," she explained.

She said the kids "never stop amazing me. You give them problems, you know how to solve them. But when the children analyze it, it's something you didn't think of. These 10-, 11-year-olds, they know how to figure out the really tough ones."

Luv Those Numbers!

Math is Paco's absolute favorite subject. "When I read some math books I feel that I live for math," the fifth grader's eyes shine with excitement. "Some math books I can't stop reading… such as 'Modern Algebra and Trigonometry' third edition by Eldridge." He also likes "Another Fine Math You've Got Me Into" by Ian Stewart. "It's very funny," he says.

"It's interesting to solve problems," says seventh grader Ramon. "I like the challenge." Geometry is what he enjoys the most.

Thirteen-year-old John, now a high school freshman, shares the same sentiment. "When you solve a problem, it feels good… especially

The Math Squad/ p. 5

The Math Squad

(from page 4)

a difficult one you've been mulling for some time."

"Math is really interesting, I don't know why many don't like it," his schoolmate Leo wonders. "It's fun to explore. As you think, you learn, 'Oh that's how it works.' You discover things by yourself by observing the problem and analyzing."

Asked how he would persuade other people that math is fun, Paco replies, "I don't think he will appreciate it if I just give him quadratic equations or the Pythagorean theorem." Instead, he suggests, "I'll think of something that he likes and try to associate it with math… like music. Because music and math are associated."

John advises math-phobics, "not to be intimidated by math. As long as you get the basic concepts, the rest will come."

Leo agrees, "Don't give up on math easily, just keep trying. We all started with zero knowledge. We just became interested so we had an edge."

MATH problems beware! Paco, Ramon, Leo and John are gonna get you. VAL HANDUMON

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Disney Toy Fair
Oct. 1-31
get a chance to WIN 1 of 48 Winnie the Pooh Toy Cars
Plus! FREE GIFTS every week with every P300 single purchase of Disney items
Oct. 1-6 free Balloons
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See mechanics poster for details

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The Math Squad

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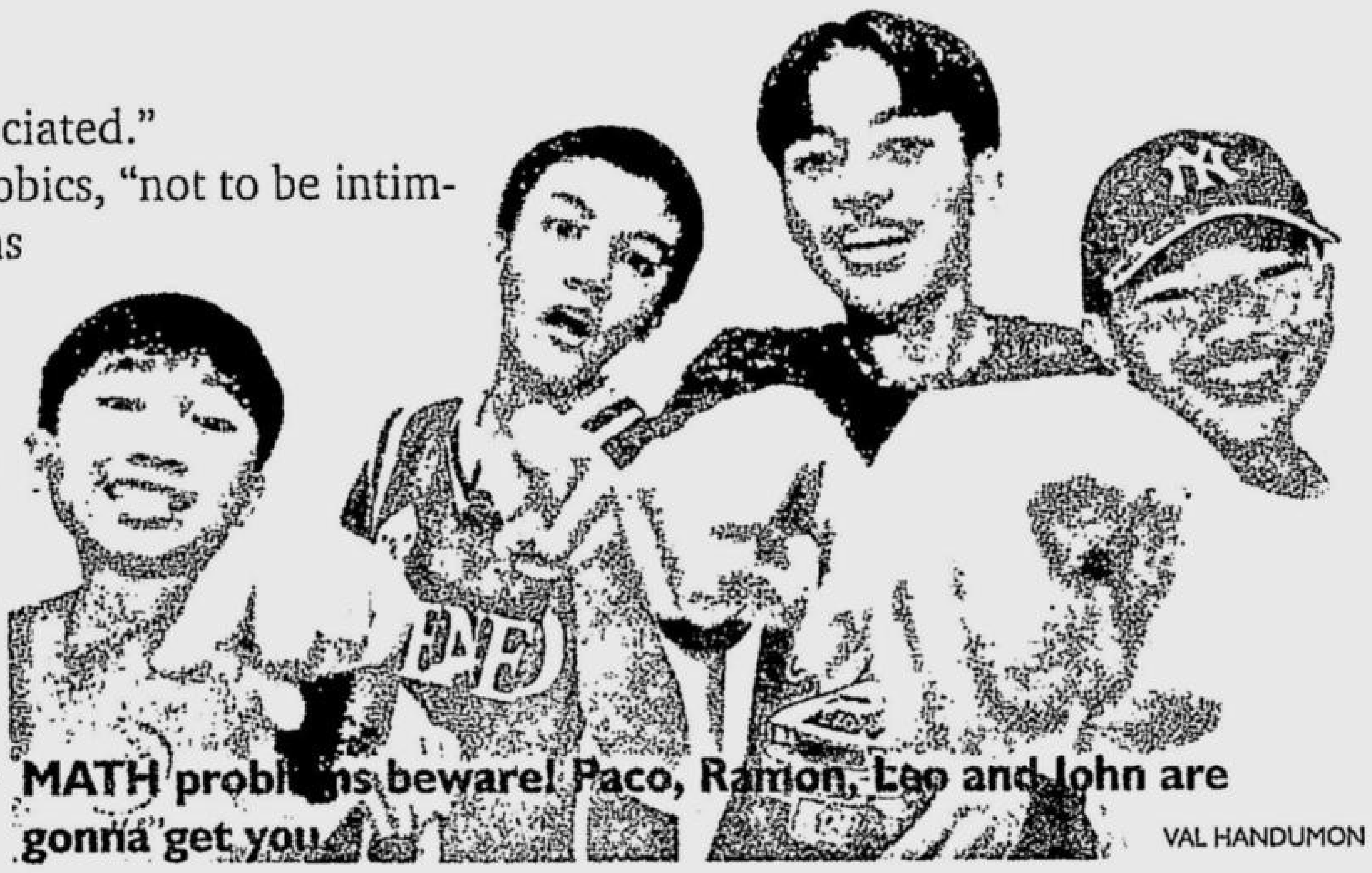

MATH problems beware! Paco, Ramon, Leo and John are gonna get you VAL HANDUMON

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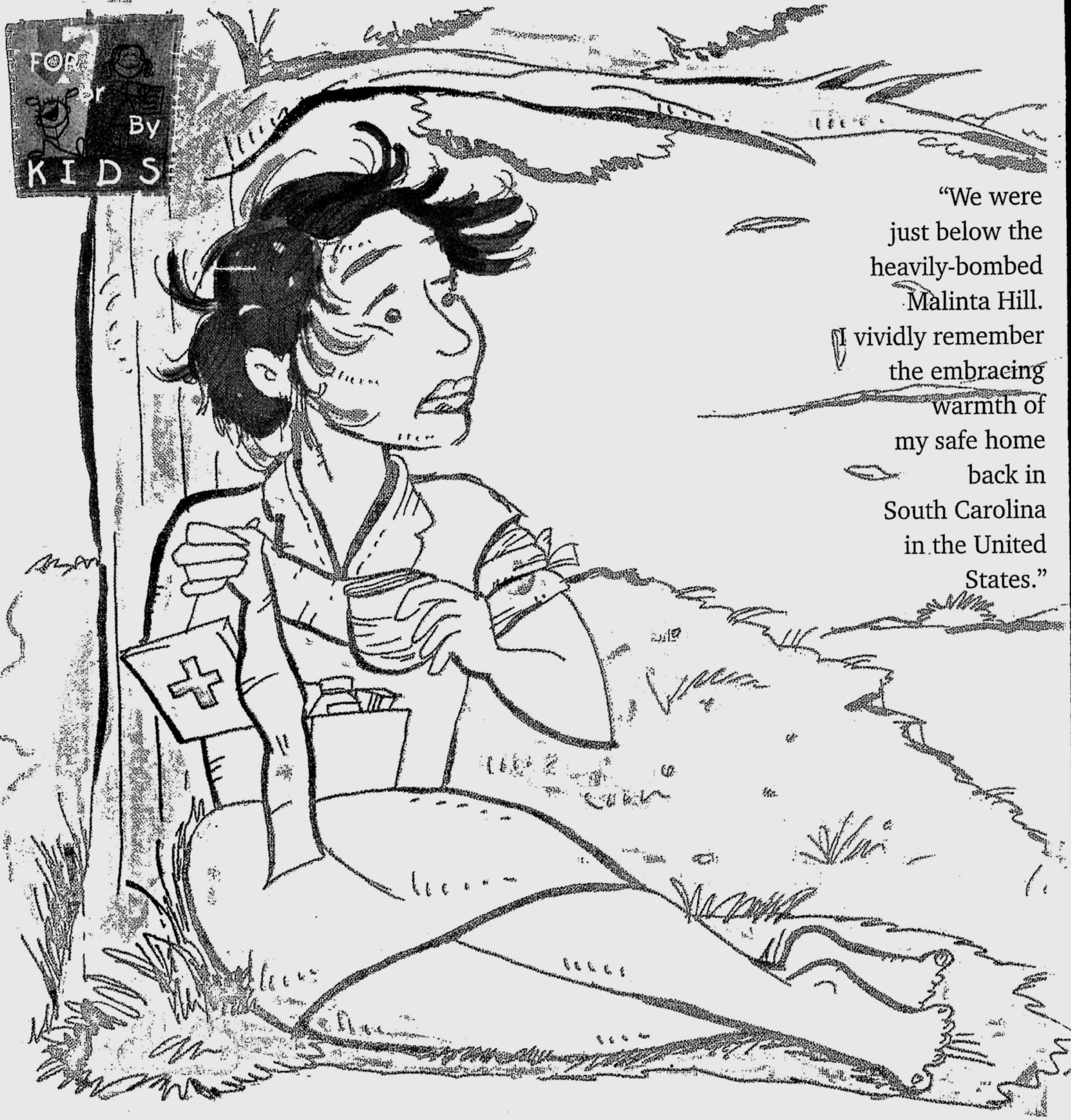


"We were just below the heavily-bombed Malinta Hill. I vividly remember the embracing warmth of my safe home back in South Carolina in the United States."

A Nurse in War

A young American woman finds herself homesick and scared in the Philippines during World War II

By Claudine Fernandez
Art by Stephanie Bravo

AS the ground below me violently shook, another dreadfully injured American soldier was hastily carried into Malinta Tunnel's overcrowded hospital. We were just below the heavily-bombed Malinta Hill. I vividly remember the embracing warmth of my safe home back in South Carolina in the United States. My loving and caring parents were there. But I was thousands of miles away: a nurse serving the sickly and wounded soldiers in Corregidor Island, Philippines.

Now it was official. I was going to be here for an extremely long time. When night fell, I heard a deafening explosion coming from a distance. I tried to keep myself steady as I headed towards the medicine storage room. The way was poorly-lit and I had to grope through it all the way.

When I was halfway through, the earth suddenly moved above me. I hurriedly ran into the shelter shaft, thinking of the worst. There was the incessant explosion of ghastly grenades and powerful Japanese missiles. There was much confusion. All over the tunnel were echoes and yells of endless pain from American and Filipino soldiers.

When it was all over, I crawled out of my cramped hiding place and cautiously surveyed the area. I felt terrified that the Japanese may have already taken control of Corregidor. There was no one in sight. So I swiftly ran back to the overcrowded hospital using the burning gas refueling chute as my light source.

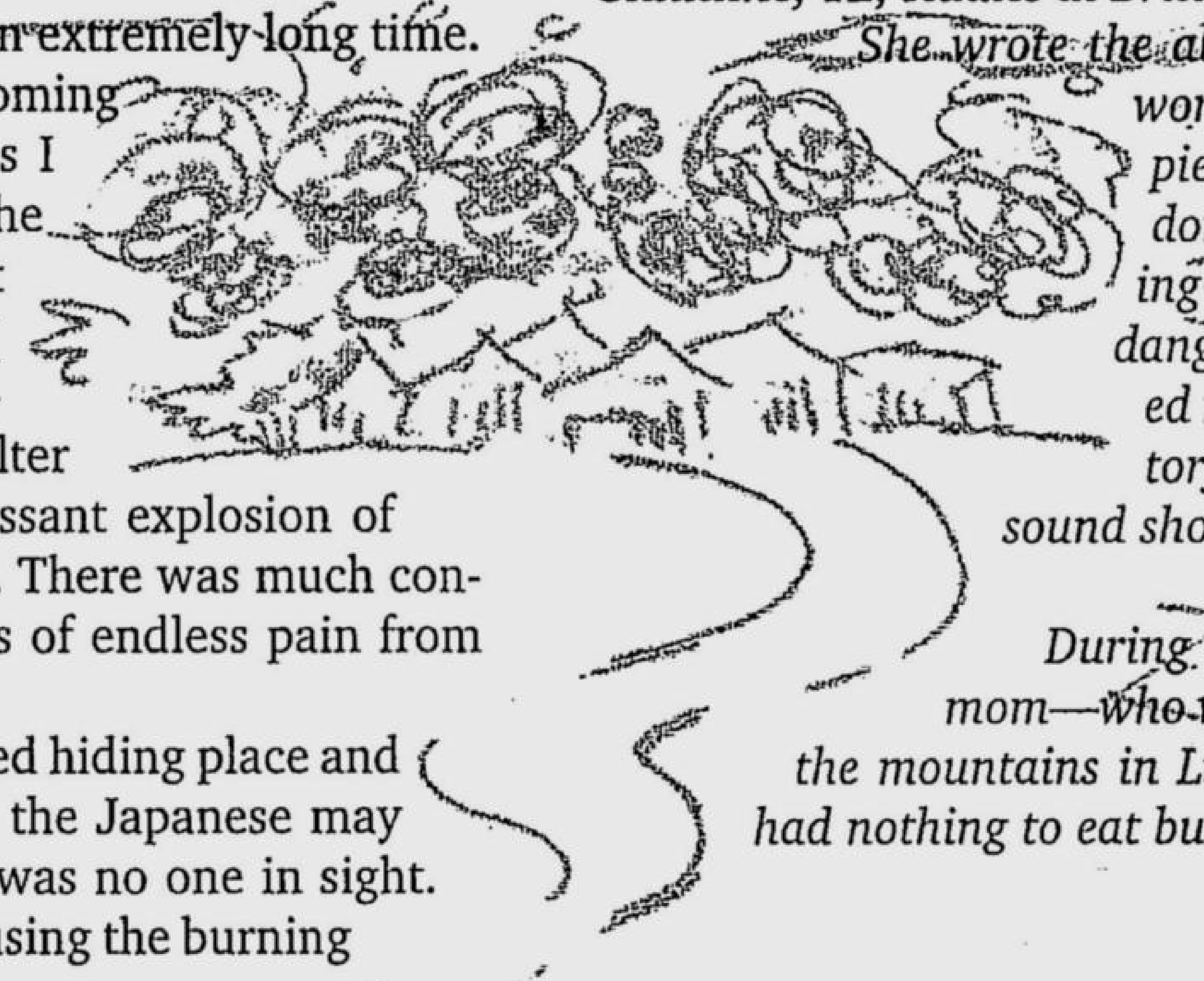
Upon reaching the place, I was met with hundreds of dead bodies scattered all over. Their faces were heavily contorted. At that moment, the earth again began to shake violently. I started to panic. I was near hysteria, too petrified to move or think! A huge piece of wood fell from nowhere and hit my head. The world took a dizzying spin, then everything went blank.

I WOKE up to a terrible headache. I found myself on a soft and comfortable bed back at the hospital. I learned that I was rescued by the American forces just before the Japanese had invaded and taken over Malinta tunnel, the former stronghold of the American forces.

I felt dreadfully helpless! I wanted simply to give up and surrender to the Japanese but my good friend Ellen bravely commented, "Giving up is for losers, who do not value freedom and dignity. I am certain that our country will not exchange freedom and dignity for one moment of weakness."

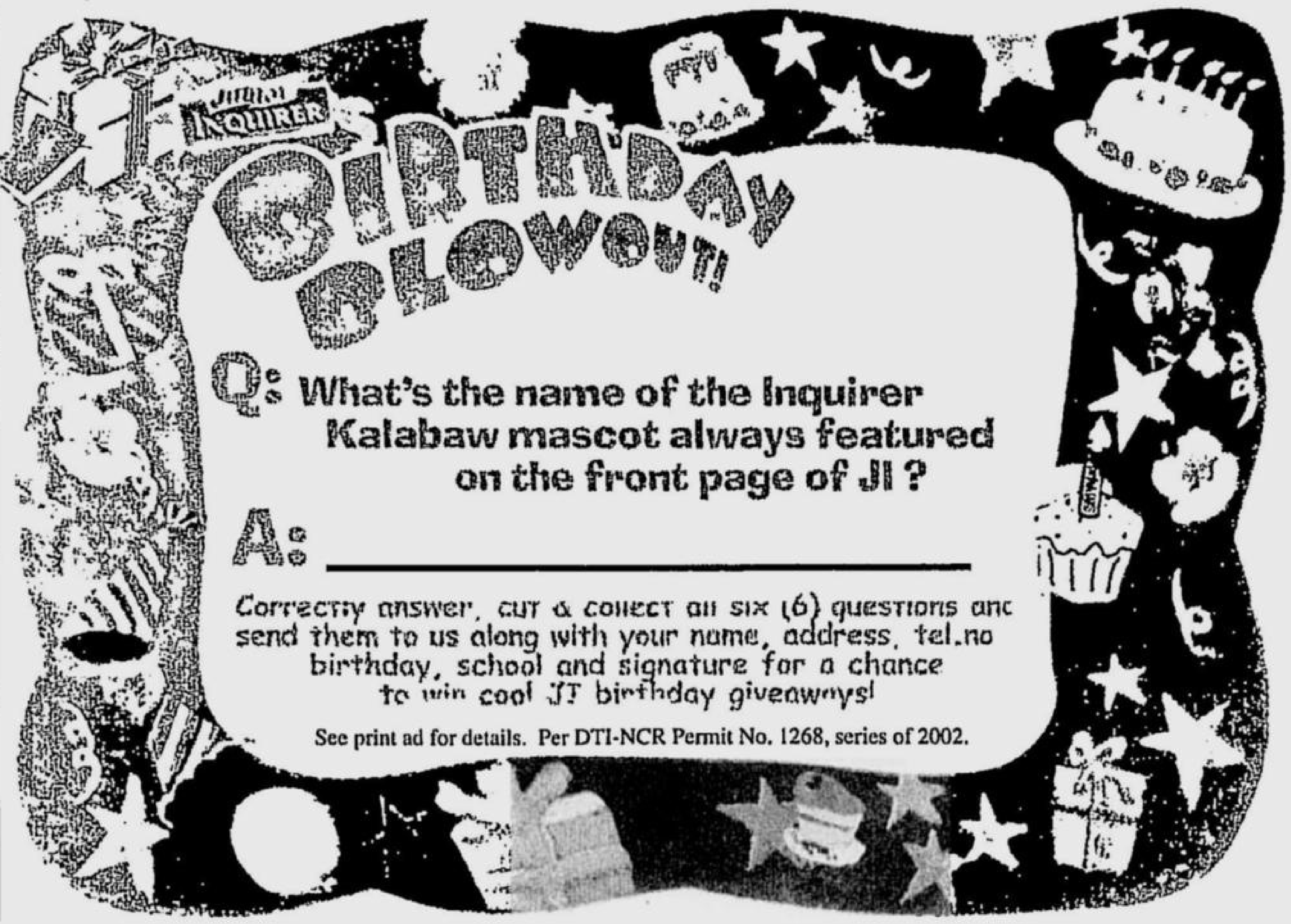
As I recovered, I started to prepare to return to the dangerous war zone. Ellen's advice gave me new strength to become even more determined to help those who were ravaged by the war.

Looking back, I felt fortunate that I was among the chosen few who could touch the lives of those men and women who bravely fought for freedom to make this world a better place for the future generation.



__Claudine__, 12, studies at British School Manila in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig. She wrote the above piece for her Creative Writing homework. She writes, "We were asked to write this piece a few days after our field trip to Corregidor Island. This visit enriched our understanding of World War II and made us realize how dangerous and serious a war could be...I adapted nearly all of my general events from the history of WWII which I learned from a light and sound show during the Corregidor tour."

During WWII, __Steph's__ lola brought Steph's mom—who was then 3—and her seven other children to the mountains in Lucena to escape the Japanese troops. They had nothing to eat but camote and kangkong, but they survived.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BIRTHDAY BLOWOUT!
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A: ______________________
Correctly answer, cut & collect all six (6) questions and send them to us along with your name, address, tel.no birthday, school and signature for a chance to win cool JI birthday giveaways!
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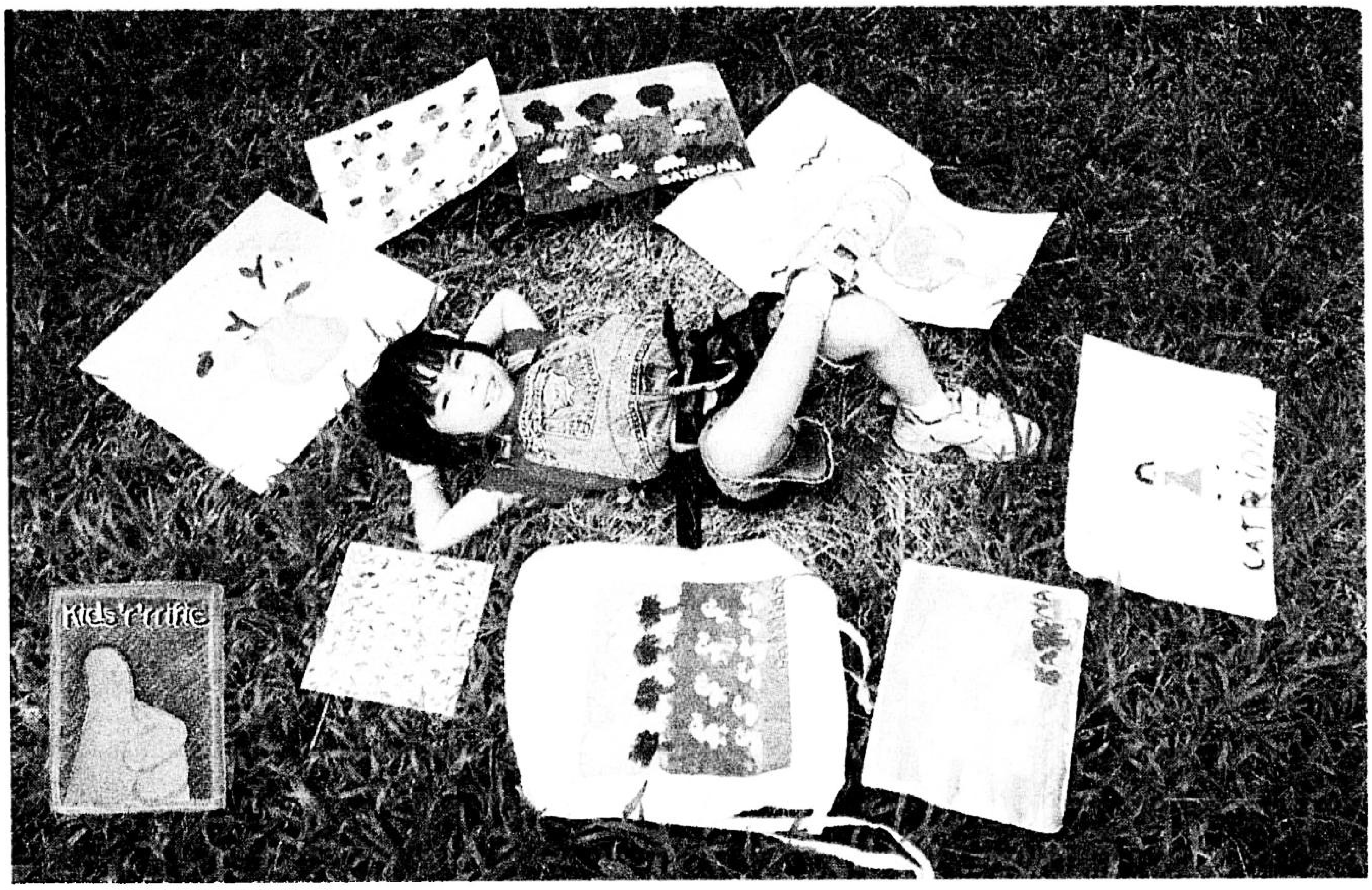

SHE draws, too. Iona, her harness and her art. MIKE ALQUINTO

Iona's Thrill

WHAT'S scary for some grown-ups is just playing to Iona. MIKE ALQUINTO

Spider kid just loves to rappel

"YOU'RE so slow!" the little girl yelled down below as I gingerly eased myself down a wall. Catriona Rae Yeneza may be 5 years old. But she can rappel down a wall as easily and smoothly as Spiderman!

Rappelling is a sport that involves descending from a high place using safety harnesses and ropes. It's just like the routine firemen use when they rescue people trapped in high-rise buildings.

Iona has been training in rappelling every weekend for a year now. The hyperactive kid from Jubilee Christian Academy fell in love with the sport when her parents took her and her two siblings to the rappelling center at the Quezon City Memorial Circle early last year.

It's a seemingly scary sport, but Iona has her father and a trainer to spot her training. Her favorite routine? The Australian rappelling technique.

"It's like walking upside down," she pipes. "And it feels like you're falling!" This sure is one kid who's not afraid of heights! ***With a report from Zobel Certeza***

R U 'RRIFIC?

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're 'Rrific' or know someone who is, fill out the the nomination form below and send it to:

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'KIDS'R'RRIFIC Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces
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1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a

FREE Junior Inquirer & CASIO EMI T-shirt, Plus! a chance to win a Keylighting keyboard!

Kids'r'rrific nomination form

I nominate: ____________________
____
____
Age: ____________________

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because: (Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)
____
____
____
____
____
She/he lives at ____________________
____
____
and studies at ____________________
____
Her/his contact number is:
____
Sender's Name: ____________________
____
Sender's Age & School: ____________________
____
Sender's Address: ____________________
____
Sender's Contact No.: ____________________
____
____

KEY LIGHTING KEYBOARD CASIO

My Teacher, My Friend

Outstanding teacher Ms Precilinda Arellano is a toughie inside the classroom, but a softy outside

By Margaux Ortiz

WHEN students enter Ms Precilinda Arellano's classroom, they are nervous, intimidated, and even scared.

Ms Arellano is strict, especially when it comes to the day's lessons. She makes sure everybody learns something from her when they go home.

But wait! Soon they learn that when they have problems—oh, with just about anything—they can also come to Ms Arellano. The 48-year-old "strict" teacher is willing to extend a helping hand and is willing to listen to her students. She treats them like her own kids.

Outside the Classroom

"I'm very close to my students," says Ms Arellano who teaches business technology, basic management and basic accounting at Arellano High School in Manila. She gestures toward a former student of hers. The kid sometimes hangs out in her house and is now a close family friend.

"They sometimes visit me in droves just to share with me everything that is going on in their lives," she says.

Ms Arellano tells her students that they can treat her as a parent, as an aunt or as a close friend. "But I make it clear to them that inside the classroom, we maintain a teacher-student relationship," she stresses.

Outstanding Teacher

She also imbibes in her pupils the importance of time management, planning and discipline. "I believe that what you teach the children will greatly affect the community, the country and the world," the teacher relates.

Her efforts in molding her students to become responsible and well-rounded adults have not gone unnoticed.

Ms Arellano has been recognized as an Outstanding Teacher in Technology Education and Outstanding Arellano High School Teacher.

She says teaching requires love and devotion. Everything she teaches a kid will become the foundation of his or her personhood. Things teachers teach help define the role students play in society.

Adds Ms Arellano, "As a teacher, we should give our time, our mind and our heart. If anyone can offer these three, then they can definitely teach."

OUTSTANDING Teacher Precy Arellano at her house in Manila.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Do you know a grown-up who

- is fun to be with
- has an exciting job
- keeps an amazing hobby
- is all of the above???

If you know a grown-up whom all kids will love, give him or her the stamp:

A.K.A. COOL

Just fill out the nomination form below and tell us why your fave grown-up is the absolute coolest. If your nominee is chosen, ***YOU'LL*** *get a free jI T-shirt! Now that's really cool.*

A.K.A. COOL
is an 'adult known as cool'
They're the folks
in our own family
Or the people
we meet in school

I nominate ______________.
He/She is ________ years old and
is my ________________.
Here are five super solid reasons why I think you should write about him/her:
1)____________________;
2)____________________;
3)____________________;
4)____________________;
5)____________________;

My nominee lives a__________
________________________.
Give him/her a call at ________
or send him/her an e-mail at ____
____________________.
By the way, I'm ____________
____________________.
I'm__________years old.
My address is______________
____________________.
You may call me at__________
____

Thinkathon

World Food Festival

FOODS from many cultures have become part of the Filipino's diet—and much of the world's, too. In today's international "taste test," match each food with the language from which it came from.

____ 1. pretzel
____ 2. tea
____ 3. spaghetti
____ 4. tempura
____ 5. kimchi
____ 6. candy
____ 7. taco
____ 8. bagel
____ 9. patis
____ 10. mayonnaise
____ 11. yogurt
____ 12. barbecue

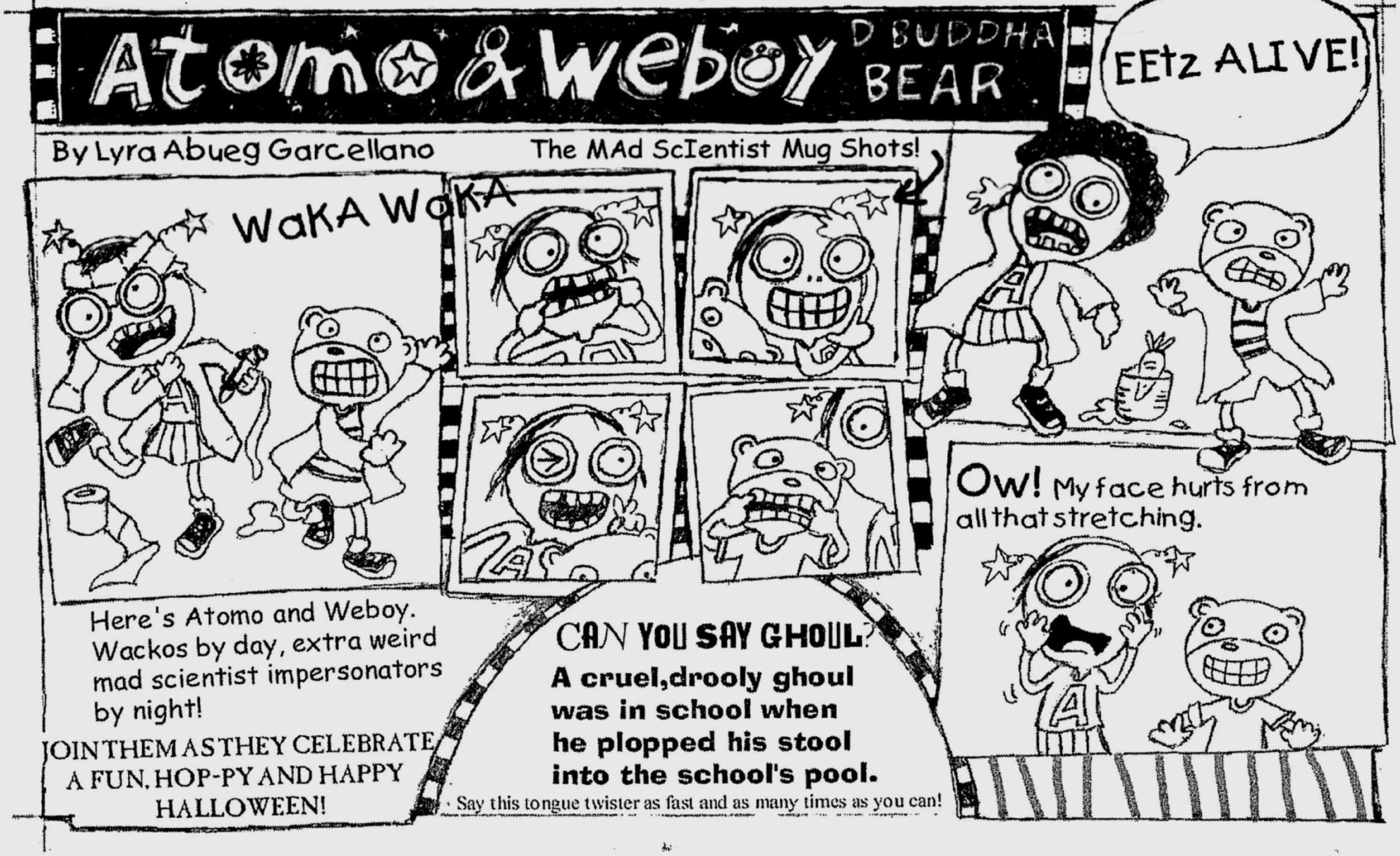
A. Chinese
B. French
C. Arabic
D. Malay
E. German
F. Korean
G. Spanish
H. Turkish
I. Italian
J. Japanese
K. Haitian
L. Yiddish

Answers:

1. E
2. A
3. I
4. J
5. F
6. C
7. G
8. L
9. D
10. B
11. H
12. K

Ratings:

superbrain! **11-12**
excellent! **8-10**
good! **5-7**

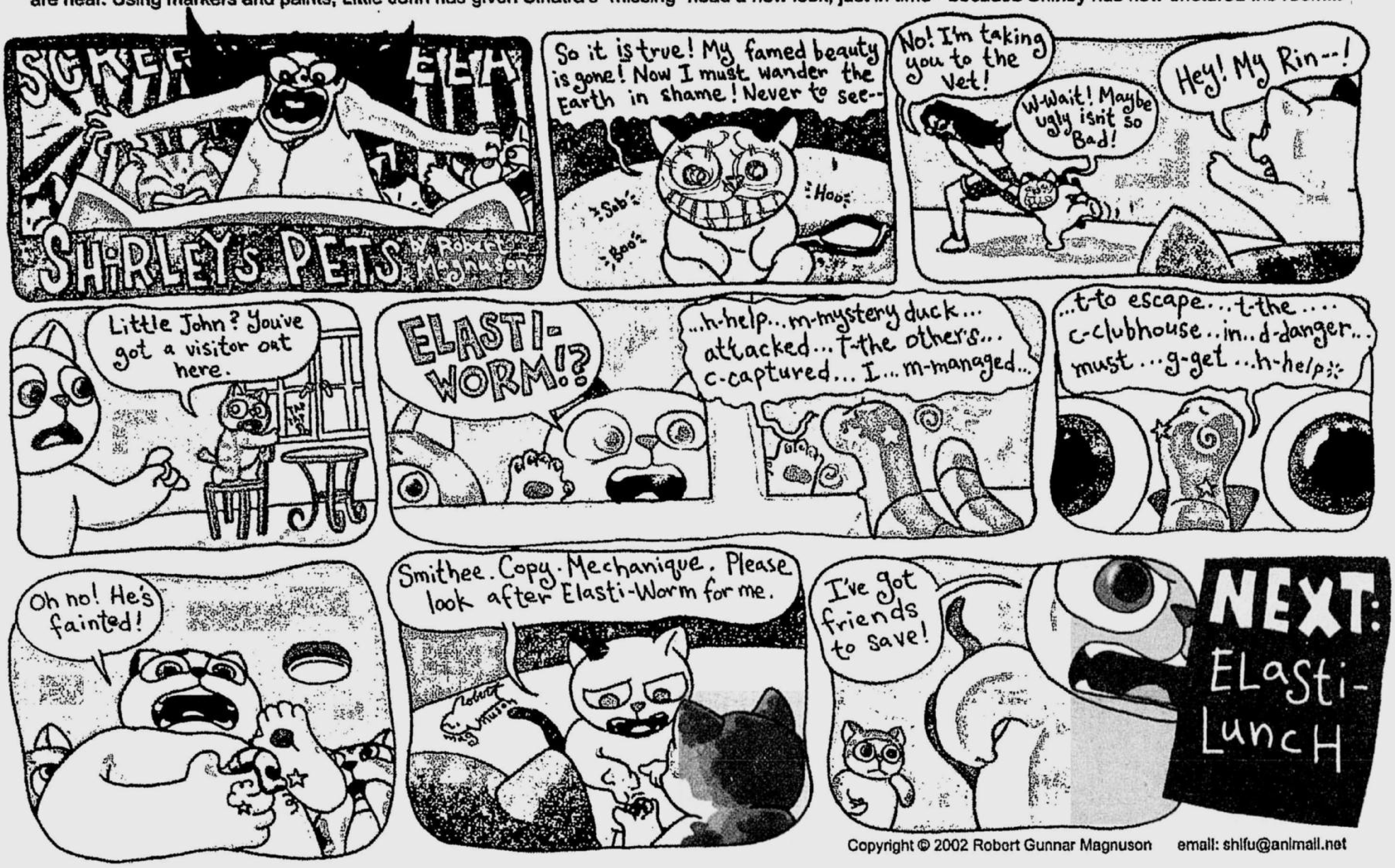

Atomo & Weboy D BUDDHA BEAR
By Lyra Abueg Garcellano
The MAd ScIentist Mug Shots!
WaKA WaKA
EEtz ALIVE!
Here's Atomo and Weboy. Wackos by day, extra weird mad scientist impersonators by night!
JOIN THEM AS THEY CELEBRATE A FUN, HOP-PY AND HAPPY HALLOWEEN!
Ow! My face hurts from all that stretching.

CAN YOU SAY GHOUL?

A cruel,drooly ghoul
was in school when
he plopped his stool
into the school's pool.

Say this tongue twister as fast and as many times as you can!

Last Episode: Little John discovers that his sister, Sinatra, has taken his hero membership ring - a ring that renders its bearer half-invisible when humans are near. Using markers and paints, Little John has given Sinatra's "missing" head a new look, just in time - because Shirley has now enetered the room...


SCREE ... EEH
SHIRLEY'S PETS by Robert Magnuson
So it is true! My famed beauty is gone! Now I must wander the Earth in shame! Never to see--
Sob
Boo
Hoo
No! I'm taking you to the Vet!
W-Wait! Maybe ugly isn't so Bad!
Hey! My Rin--!
Little John? You've got a visitor out here.
ELASTI-WORM!?
...h-help...m-mystery duck... attacked...t-the other's... c-captured... I...m-managed...
...t-to escape...t-the.... c-clubhouse..in..d-danger.. must...g-get...h-help
Oh no! He's fainted!
Smithee. Copy. Mechanique. Please look after Elasti-Worm for me.
Robert Magnuson
I've got friends to save!
NEXT: Elasti-Lunch

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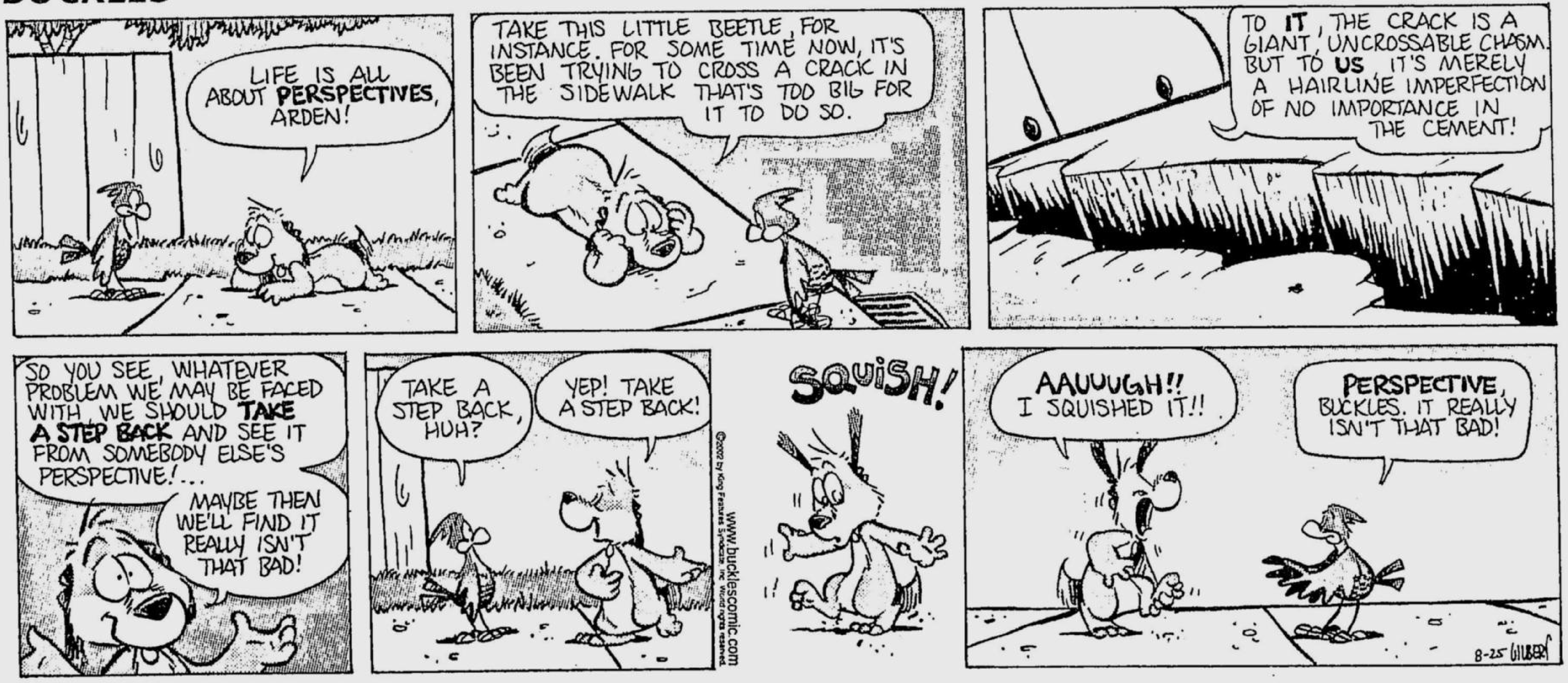
BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT


LIFE IS ALL ABOUT PERSPECTIVES, ARDEN!
TAKE THIS LITTLE BEETLE, FOR INSTANCE. FOR SOME TIME NOW, IT'S BEEN TRYING TO CROSS A CRACK IN THE SIDEWALK THAT'S TOO BIG FOR IT TO DO SO.
TO IT, THE CRACK IS A GIANT, UNCROSSABLE CHASM. BUT TO US, IT'S MERELY A HAIRLINE IMPERFECTION OF NO IMPORTANCE IN THE CEMENT!
SO YOU SEE, WHATEVER PROBLEM WE MAY BE FACED WITH, WE SHOULD TAKE A STEP BACK AND SEE IT FROM SOMEBODY ELSE'S PERSPECTIVE!...
MAYBE THEN WE'LL FIND IT REALLY ISN'T THAT BAD!
TAKE A STEP BACK, HUH?
YEP! TAKE A STEP BACK!
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www.bucklescomic.com
SQUISH!
AAUUUGH!! I SQUISHED IT!!
PERSPECTIVE, BUCKLES. IT REALLY ISN'T THAT BAD!
8-25 GILBERT

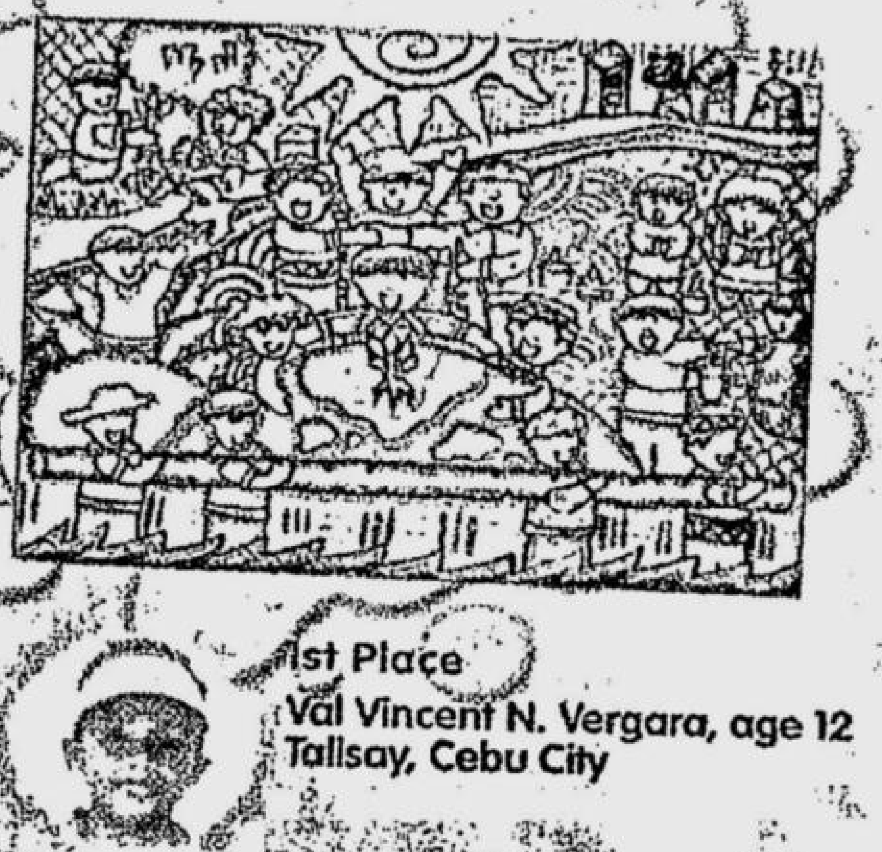
Congratulations sa mga nanalo sa

Sabi ng Jollibee Kapayapaan, Kaya Mong Ilarawan, KiD! Painting Contest

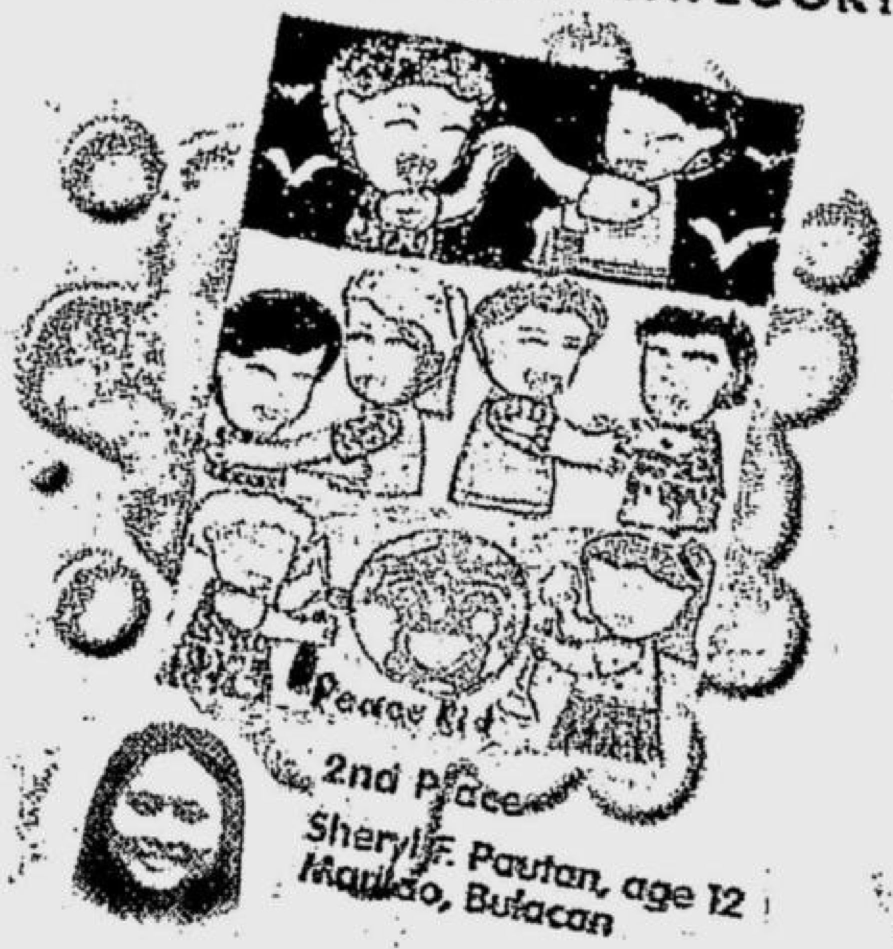
Ang galing n'yo, kids!

Napatunayan n'yo na kahit sa munting paraan, makatutulong kayo upang magkaroon ng kapayapaan. Sana kayo ay tularan!

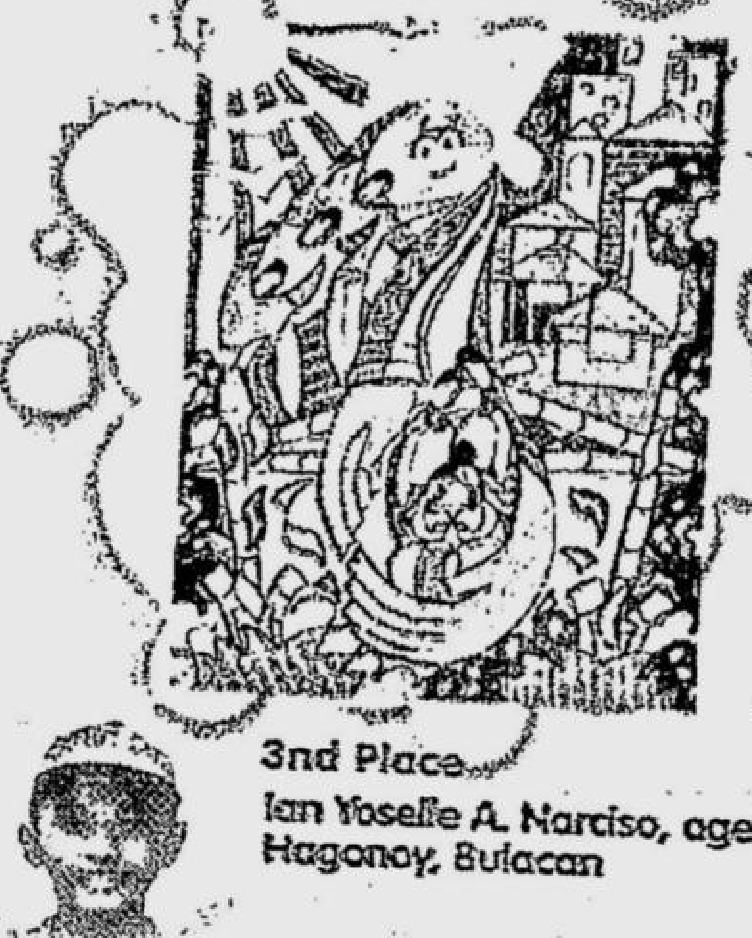
OIL-BASED MEDIUM CATEGORY



1st Place
Val Vincent N. Vergara, age 12
Talisay, Cebu City

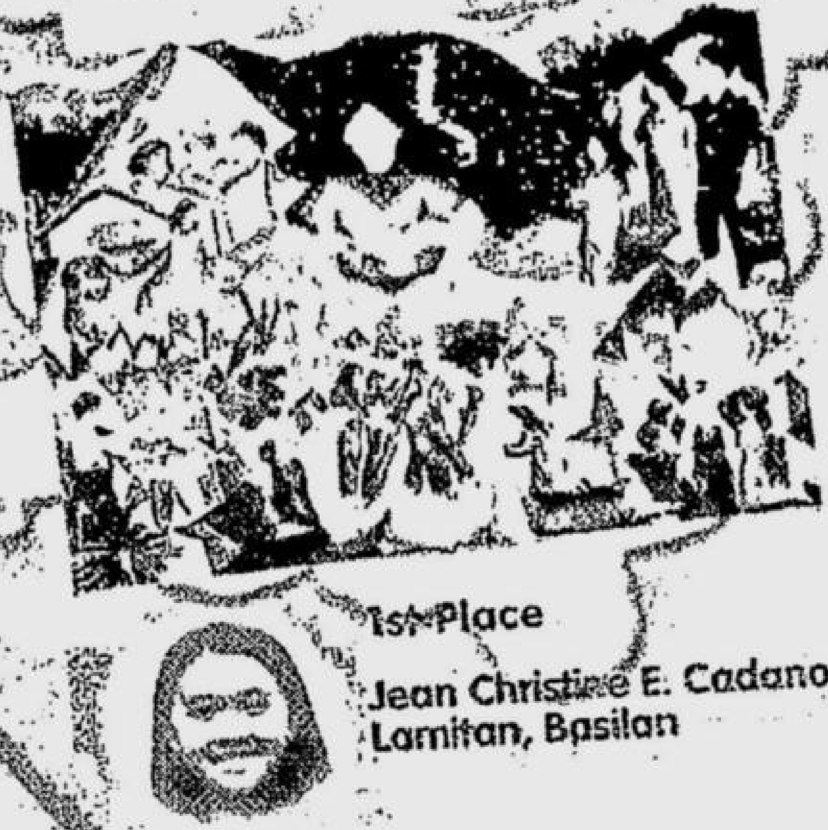


2nd Place
Sheryl F. Pautan, age 12
Marilao, Bulacan

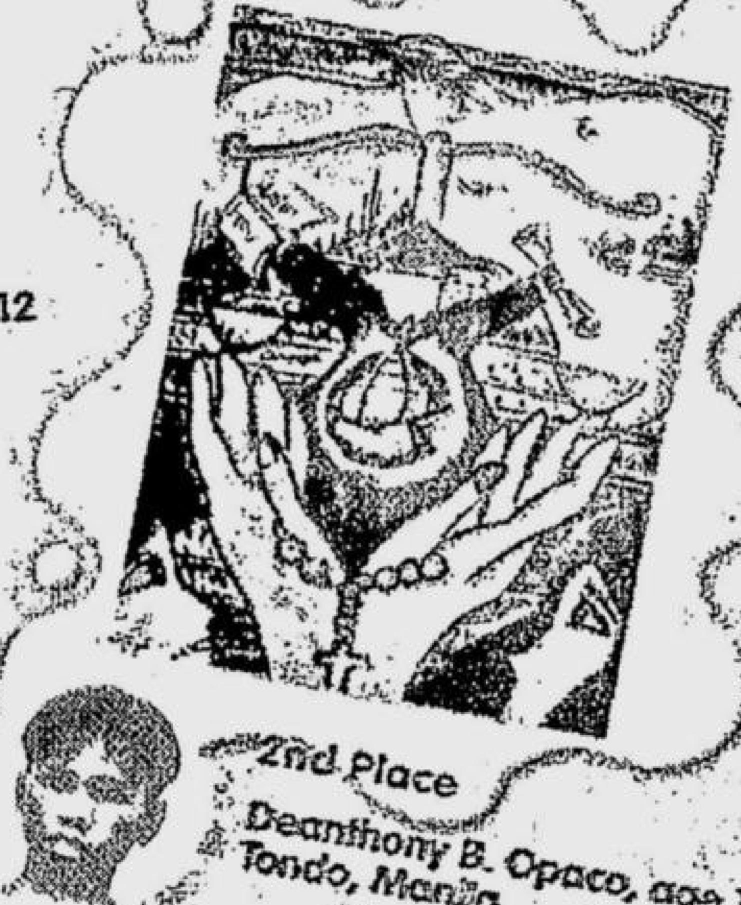


3rd Place
Ian Yoselle A. Narciso, age 11
Hagonoy, Bulacan

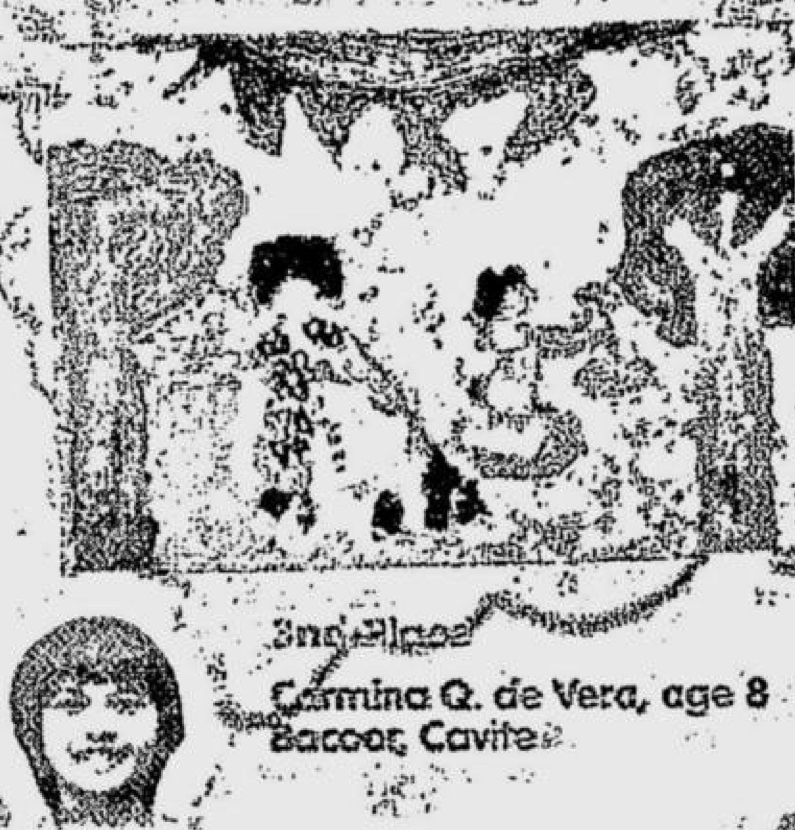
WATER-BASED MEDIUM CATEGORY



1st Place
Jean Christine E. Cadano, age 12
Lamitan, Basilan



2nd Place
Deanthony B. Opaco, age 12
Tondo, Manila



3rd Place
Carmina Q. de Vera, age 8
Bacoor, Cavite

Sabi ng Jollibee Kaya Mo, KiD!

Maraming salamat sa lahat ng lumahok at sa mga partners ng Jollibee sa contest na ito:

Ang Ilustrador ng Kabataan · CEBU PACIFIC THE OFFICIAL CARRIER · PET PLANS · GOODWILL · Enchanted Kingdom

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